

POL 327: Political Parties, Spring 2016

M/W/F 1pm-1:50pm, Maybank Hall 307

Professor: Karyn Amira

Office: Political Science Department Room 301

Contact: amiraka@cofc.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3-5 or by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives:

This course is designed to give you an understanding of how American political parties have functioned (or have not functioned) throughout history. Though we will discuss the history of the major parties, the majority of the course will be focused on how parties operate today. There are two features of this course that differ from previous years. Since the class will take place during the 2016 primary, we will periodically discuss what is happening in the campaigns and how it relates to the parties. You will also be responsible for “representing” a minor party throughout the course and occasionally provide the class with updates on how your party is reacting (or should be reacting, theoretically) to the events of the primary.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify and explain the historical development and contemporary structure of American political parties
- Evaluate the evolution, functioning and consequences of parties in the United States
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills related to parties in the United States
- Demonstrate an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics

Tests:

Over the course of the semester you will have three tests, which are non-cumulative. They are each worth 20% of your final grade. Tests will cover anything we have read for homework or anything we have discussed in class. The final test will take place during the final exam time slot provided by the school.

Assignments:

Toward the beginning of the semester you will be assigned a minor American party to follow throughout the entirety of the course. During our “periodic parties” (see course agenda), we will discuss the election and hear from each person about their party’s position on current events and/or the 2016 election. This will help familiarize you with parties in the US that we don’t hear much about. This will contribute to your participation grade (along with attendance and participation during regular classes). In addition to these periodic election updates, you will have 3 short writing assignments about the party you have been assigned. The first is a mini research paper and the second and third are press releases. See writing assignment sheet for instructions.

Grading Breakdown by Percentage:

10% - Participation (includes attendance)	20% - Test 1
30% - 3 Short Papers (10% each)	20% - Test 2
	20% - Test 3

Grading Scale for Final Semester Grades

100-94 A	79-77 C+	63-60 D-
93-90 A-	76-74 C	59-0 F
89-87 B+	73-70 C-	
86-84 B	69-67 D+	
83-80 B-	67-64 D	

Late Assignments, Incompletes, Extensions and Make-Up Exams: Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late including weekends. There will be no make-up quizzes/exams and I will not grant incompletes in the course, except in cases of emergency or where university policy applies. Doctor's notes are expected for medical excuses. If you miss a quiz/exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero.

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation counts towards 10% of your grade. Attendance will be taken during the first month or so of class to make sure that students are showing up, per the school's attendance verification policy. It is critical that you attend class. Much of this course builds on itself so accumulated absences will take a toll on your understanding of the material.

Office Hours: Having trouble? Have questions? Come on by. I promise it will be helpful. Email me to schedule a time to meet.

Laptop Policy: No laptops in class. Trust me, you will learn more this way!

Syllabus Policy: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary.

Course Evaluation Statement: You will have the opportunity to evaluate the course towards the end of the semester through an online evaluation system. I will remind you to bring laptops that day so they can be done during the final class.

Extra Credit: You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending events put on by the Political Science Department. Details to come.

Part 1: History of the Parties and Theories of the Parties

Friday January 8: Introduction and Review of Syllabus

Monday January 11: How Did We Get Here?

- Why I'm Leaving the Senate by Evan Bayh (D):
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/21/opinion/21bayh.html?_r=0
- Why I'm Leaving the Senate by Olympia Snowe (R):
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/olympia-snowe-why-im-leaving-the-senate/2012/03/01/gIQApgYZIR_story.html
- Speaking out Against Partisan Gridlock in the Senate:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgaG2MDfGXQ>

Wednesday Jan 13: The First Party System (1792-1824)

- Federalist Paper #10 by Madison
- Brutus II by Robert Yates

Friday Jan 15: The Second Party System and the Albany Regency (1828-1854)

- Life of the Parties Chapters 4-5
- *On this day we will select 3rd parties for each class member to "follow" and report on periodically throughout the semester.*

Monday Jan 18: MLK DAY- NO CLASS

Wednesday Jan 20: The Third Party System (1856-1894)

- Life of the Parties Chapter 6

Friday Jan 22: The Fourth Party System (1896-1932)

- V.O Key's "Theory of Critical Elections"

Monday Jan 25: The Fifth Party System (1932-....?)

Wednesday Jan 27- Current Party Systems

- Seth Masket: The contemporary parties are networked:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/02/14/our-political-parties-are-networked-not-fragmented/>

Part 2: Parties in Congress

Friday Jan 29: Structure of Parties in Congress: Caucuses

- Got a General Hobby or Interest? There's a Caucus for That!
<http://www.nationaljournal.com/congress/2014/04/18/got-hobby-general-interest-theres-congressional-caucus-that>

Monday Feb 1: Conditional Party Government

Wednesday Feb 3: Conditional Party Government

- Rohde, Reform and Its Consequences: A Closer Look (Chapter 2)

Friday Feb 5: *****Periodic Party and Election Update*****

FIRST PAPER DUE. This will prepare you to discuss the basic history and platform of your assigned party for today

Monday Feb 8: NO CLASS- USE THIS TIME TO STUDY

****Wednesday Feb 10: TEST I****

Friday Feb 12: Legislative Leviathan (Procedural Cartel Theory)

Monday Feb 15: Voting the Party Line

- Two Senators Willing to Defy the Party Line:
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/29/upshot/two-senators-willing-to-defy-the-party-line.html?_r=0
- Members of Congress Who Vote Against the Party:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/06/11/here-are-the-members-of-congress-who-vote-against-their-party-the-most/>

Wednesday Feb 17: The Tea Party Emergence in Congress

- Tea Party Still Powerful Force Among GOP: <http://theweek.com/articles/444789/tea-party-still-powerful-force-gop-politics>
- Reading the Tea Leaves: Understanding Tea Party Caucus Membership in the US House of Representatives:
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bryan_Gervais/publication/259420079_Reading_the_Tea_Leaves_Understanding_Tea_Party_Caucus_Membership_in_the_US_House_of_Representatives/links/00b7d5349d51d8af5c000000.pdf

Friday Feb 19: *****Periodic Party and Election Update*****

Come prepared to discuss your party's position on current events/election 2016

Part 3: The Party and Elections: Playing to Win

Monday Feb 22: Understanding the Primary System

Wednesday Feb 24: Parties and Primaries/

- The Party Decides Chapter 6- Mastering the Reformed System

Friday Feb 26: The Party Decides

- The Party Decides Chapter 7- The Invisible Primary

Monday Feb 29: The Party Decides

- The Party Decides Chapter 8 – Anatomy of a Conversation

Wednesday March 2: SUPER TUESDAY RECAP DAY

- Hillary Clinton's Grip on the Invisible Primary:
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/05/27/hillary_clintons_grip_on_the_invisible_primary.html
- Joe Biden Ran In the Invisible Primary: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/22/upshot/joe-bidens-decision-and-hillary-clintons-victory.html>
- *Come prepared to discuss what happened last night*

Friday March 4: The Party Decides....Does it Hold Up? (2015/2016 Primary Election!)

- Interview with Hans Noel, co-author of TPD:
http://www.cjr.org/campaign_desk/how_to_understand_the_invisibl.php
- Republican Party Frets Over What to Do with Donald Trump:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/10/us/politics/donald-trump-republican-party-debate.html>
- Trump Signs Loyalty Pledge: <http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/09/03/donald-trump-signs-loyalty-pledge-to-republican-party/>
- Talk in GOP Turns to a Stop Donald Trump Campaign:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/05/us/politics/talk-in-gop-turns-to-a-stop-donald-trump-campaign.html>
- ADDED AS OF FEBUARY 27TH:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/28/us/politics/donald-trump-republican-party.html>

☺ **Monday March 7- March 13 Spring Break!!!** ☺

Monday March 14: Parties and the General Election

Wednesday March 16: ****Periodic Party and Election Update****

Come prepared to discuss your party's position on current events/election 2016

Friday March 18- GUEST SPEAKER BILL KREML FROM THE GREEN PARTY

****Monday March 21: TEST II****

Part 4: Third Parties

Wednesday March 23: Explaining 3rd Parties

- Rosenstone Chapter on 3rd parties
- Could a Third Party Candidate Win a General Election? That's Very Unlikely
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/08/02/could-a-third-party-candidate-win-the-u-s-presidency-very-unlikely/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.18ae2d6a1ebd

Friday March 25: Explaining 3rd Parties

- Frozen Out: <http://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2015/07/20/excluding-independents-from-2016-presidential-debates-is-undemocratic>
- Third Party Advocates File Lawsuit Over Debates: <http://time.com/3929644/presidential-debates-lawsuit/>

Monday March 28: 3rd Party Success Stories

- Gold, "Explaining 3rd Party Successes in Gubernatorial Elections"

Part 4: The Party in the Mass Public

Wednesday March 30: Partisanship as a Social Identity

- Greene, Understanding Party Identification: A Social Identity Approach

Friday April 1: Partisanship as a Social Identity: Consequences

- Politics and Pizza <http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/16/politics-and-the-pizza/?src=tp&r=0>
- Politics Makes Us Stupid: <http://www.vox.com/2014/4/6/5556462/brain-dead-how-politics-makes-us-stupid>

Part 5: The Role of Ideology on Parties and the Public

Monday April 4: Ideology-A Closer Look at What It Is

Wednesday April 6: Elite Polarization

- Noel, Political Ideologies and Political Parties Chapter 4

Friday April 8: NO CLASS: PROFESSOR AT POLI SCI CONFERENCE

Monday April 11: Elite Polarization

- Noel, Political Ideologies and Political Parties Chapter 5
- ASPA Task Force Report on Negotiating Agreement in Politics (read the Executive Summary, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2)

Wednesday April 13: Public Polarization- It's Not Happening!!!!

- Fiorina, Culture War Chapters 1-5

Friday April 15: Public Polarization- It's Happening!!!!

- Abramowitz and Saunders, Is Polarization a Myth?
http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~jcampbel/documents/AbramowitzJOP_001.pdf

Monday April 18: Affective Polarization and Partisan Prejudice

- If Liberals Hate Him Than Trump Must be Doing Something Right
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/opinion/sunday/if-liberals-hate-him-then-trump-must-be-doing-something-right.html?smid=tw-nytopinion&smtyp=cur&r=0>

Wednesday April 20: What Can We Do?

- ASPA Task Force Report on Negotiating Agreement in Politics (read sections 5 and 6)

*******THE FINAL EXAM (The 3rd Test) IS SCHEDULED FOR:
Friday, April 29th at 4pm-7pm. Clearly this time slot sucks because it's the time slot and its on
a Friday. But we can't change it. *******