

AMERICAN PARTY POLITICS POL: 790:302:01

Spring 2020

Instructor: Nicole M. Bizzoco

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Class Time: M/W 2:50 – 4:10PM
Classroom: Freilinghuyser Hall, A5

Office Hours:
M/W 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Hickman Hall 303

*“Treasury Secretary, Washington’s the President. Every American experiment sets a precedent. Not so fast, someone came along to resist him. **Pissed him off until we had a two party system.**” – “Thomas Jefferson’s Coming Home” from, *Hamilton: An American Musical**

Course Description This course explores scholarly debates surrounding the purpose, roles, and overall influence of political parties in the United States. We will focus primarily on three different conceptions of parties in American politics literature: parties as organizations (groups of people working to elect candidates), parties in the electorate (mass opinions and voter behavior), and parties in government (coalitions formed in governing institutions). In what ways do we define political parties? To what extent do our definitions capture the broad functions of political parties? What factors contribute to stronger and more polarized political parties in the United States? What is the relationship between political parties and democracy? We will continually return to these key questions throughout the course of the semester.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to: understand and explain the various functions of American political parties; explain how theories from political science inform the development of different definitions of political parties; construct and evaluate analytical arguments about political parties in the United States; apply their knowledge of research and theories of political parties to broader current events

Required Text: Hershey, Marjorie Randon. *Party Politics in America*. (16th Edition or later). Boston, MA: Pearson. [ISBN: 978-0205992096]

*All other required readings will be posted under the “Resources” tab on Sakai.

Grading

- **Party Organization Paper** (20%) - Due: March 4th; You are required to complete a 5-7 page (double-spaced, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins) paper that examines the roles of an American political party organization of your choosing. More information on this paper will be provided.
- **Midterm** (25%) - March 11th; Consisting of short answer and application essay questions
- **Critical Analysis Paper** (30%) - Due: April 29th; You are required to complete a 10-12 page (double-spaced, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins) paper that critically analyzes a topic related to American party politics. Your topic must be submitted to me for approval via Sakai by April 1st. You will not receive a grade higher than a B if you do not submit a topic.
- **Final Exam** (25%) - Same general format as midterm ; May 13th, 12pm-3pm

Class Conduct: This classroom is an environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is therefore essential that respect for the right of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are

maintained. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action or removal from class per university policy.

Attendance/Absences: Please keep in mind that attendance is necessary to pass this course. Exams also draw heavily from lecture material, and it will be difficult to perform well if you are not in class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. I do NOT give out lecture notes and/or PowerPoint slides.

Extensions/Make-up Exams: If you become ill or have some other emergency and cannot turn in a paper or take an exam on the scheduled day, you must notify me ahead of time and provide documentation. Extensions and make-up exams apply to emergency situations ONLY.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses at Rutgers. The minimum punishment is the receipt of a grade of an F in the course. For further information you can consult the university's policy http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours or after lecture. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disabilities Services, 77 Hamilton Street. (732) 932-7896.

Student-Athletes: If you are an NCAA student-athlete, please provide me with your travel and home event release form as soon as possible.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments *subject to change*

Week 1: (1/22) Course introduction and overview

Week 2: (1/27 & 1/29) What are Political Parties? Parties and Democracy

M: Madison, Federalist 10; Washington's Farewell Address;

W: Aldrich, 2011; Why Parties? A Second Look, Ch. 1: Politics and Parties in America

Week 3: (2/3 & 2/5) Evolving Party Coalitions

M: Hershey Ch. 1: What Are Political Parties; Aldrich (2011), Why Parties? A Second Look, Ch. 2: Why Parties Form

W: Stonecash (2013), Ch. 10: Pursuing Coalitions and Identities; Hershey Ch. 2: The American Two-Party System

Week 4: (2/10 & 2/12) Parties as Organizations: State and National Parties

M: -Hershey Ch. 3: State and Local Party Organizations; Shea and Green (2007), Ch. 13: Local Parties and Mobilizing the Vote

W: -Hershey Ch. 4: The Parties' National Organizations

Week 5: (2/17 & 2/19) Parties as Organizations: Party Activists

M: NO CLASS – Happy President's Day / Prof Bizzoco's Birthday ☺

W: Hershey Ch. 5: Party Activists

Week 6: (2/24 & 2/26) Parties in the Electorate: Party Identification
M: Aldrich (2011), *Why Parties? A Second Look*, Ch. 6: Party Activists and Cleavages;
W: Campbell et. al. (1960), *The American Voter*, Ch. 6; Hershey Ch. 6: Party Identification

Week 7: (3/2 & 3/4) Parties in the Electorate: Parties and Voting Behavior
M: Hajnal and Lee (2011), *Why Americans Don't Join the Party*, Ch. 3; Frymer (1999), *Uneasy Alliances*, Ch. 4
W: Hershey Ch. 7: Party Coalitions and Party Change
*PARTY ORGANIZATION PAPER DUE [bring hard copy AND upload to Sakai]

Week 8: (3/9 & 3/11) Midterm Exam Week! *No required readings this week
M: *Midterm Exam Review
W: *MIDTERM EXAM

NO CLASS (3/14 – 3/22) – ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK!

Week 9: (3/23 & 3/25) Parties, Nominations, and Elections: Candidates
M: Hershey Ch. 8: Parties and Voter Turnout; Hajnal and Lee (2011), *Why Americans Don't Join the Party*, Ch. 5
W: Hershey Ch. 9: How Parties Choose Candidates; Sanbonmatsu (2006), "Do Parties Know That 'Women Win'?"

Week 10: (3/30 & 4/1) Parties, Nominations, and Elections: Campaigns
M: Hershey Ch. 10: Choosing the Presidential Nominee; Hershey Ch. 11: The General Election
W: Geer (2006), *In Defense of Negativity*, Ch. 1 ; Hershey Ch. 12: Financing the Campaigns
*PAPER TOPIC DUE ON SAKAI by midnight

Week 11: (4/6 & 4/8) Parties in Government: Partisan Models
M: Hershey Ch. 13: Parties in Congress and State Legislatures
W: Ch. 14: The Party in the Executive and the Courts

Week 12 (4/13 & 4/15) Effects of Party Influence; Party Polarization
M: Hershey Ch. 15: The Semi-Responsible Party; Lee (2009), *Beyond Ideology*, Ch.8
W: Noel (2013): *Political Ideologies and Political Parties in America*, Ch. 5 & Ch. 7

Week 13: (4/20 & 4/22) Polarization in the Electorate: Red and Blue America?
M: NO CLASS / work on papers
W: *Controversies in Voting Behavior*, Ch. 12: Is the American Electorate Polarized?; Kaufman (2002), "Culture Wars, Secular Realignment, and the Gender Gap in Party Identification"

Week 14: (4/27 & 4/29) Course Conclusion and Review Day
M: Hershey Ch. 16: The Place of Parties in American Politics
W: No in-class session; CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER DUE via to Sakai

Week 15: (5/4)
M: FINAL EXAM REVIEW SESSION

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 5/13/2020, 12:00-3:00 p.m.