

## **Political Parties and Elections**

**POLS 3301**

**Spring 2019**

**MWF 10a-10:50a**

**Ross Hall 211**

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### ***Course Overview***

The study of political parties and elections is one of the most exciting fields in political science. In this course, we'll look at the formation, evolution, and role political parties play in society. We'll explore party strategy, party and electoral systems. We'll take a comparative approach and explore political parties primarily in advanced industrial democracies. The readings and discussions will challenge you to think about how and why political parties, party systems, and electoral systems differ (or are the same) across countries. Additionally, you will begin to develop a deeper understanding of the political effects of these differences. Through readings, discussions, and written work, you will have developed a thorough understanding of political parties and elections.

### ***Expectations***

It is important to remember that you are adults, and success at the collegiate level is dependent upon approaching your studies as a responsible adult. Thus, you are expected to be in class. As this is an upper level course that covers a large amount of unfamiliar material, attendance will serve to improve your grade. Further, you will be expected to do all of the readings (both textbook and other readings) by the below enumerated dates.

### ***Course Materials and Required Reading***

The required readings for the course include 2 books and articles and chapters available on Blackboard denoted as [BB] below. The two books have been ordered by the UALR Bookstore and are also available on-line. If you choose to purchase the books on-line, be sure to buy the correct editions.

David Farrell. 2011. *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg. 2000. *Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

I encourage you to stay on top of election results and party developments throughout the semester. In our discussions and on any quizzes, I'll draw on current events and I'd like you to be able to do the same. You may choose which publication you'd like to read, but I'd recommend you select from among the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, BBC, CNN.com, or *The Economist*. I'd also suggest becoming a regular NPR listener.

### ***Course Assignments***

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Midterm Exam       | 27.5 %        |
| 2. Final Exam         | 27.5 %        |
| 3. Party journals (3) | 15% (5% each) |
| 4. Final Paper        | 20 %          |
| 5. Participation      | 10%           |

**Grading:** Grading will follow a standard scale: 89.5% or higher is an A, 79.5% to 89.49% is a B, 69.5% to 79.49% is a C, and 59.5% to 69.49% is a D.

In order to avoid myriad problems I will NOT do any of the following:

1. Change grades unless a computational error is made
2. Reveal grades via e-mail or telephone
3. Give any extra credit opportunities other than those mentioned in the syllabus or by me in class
4. ***ACCEPT ANY LATE MATERIALS***
5. Allow any makeup exams, unless in extenuating circumstances

Exam grades will be posted on Blackboard, usually within 7 days of the exam.

If you do poorly on any of the assignments, I advise you to see me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to seek my help if you need it.

It is important to note, I may provide a general curve on each exam. This is done in order to avoid curving the final grades which is again possible, however, unlikely.

**Exams:** There will be two in-class exams (see below for dates). The exams will be a combination of short answers and essays. The midterm will cover all of the material from the first half of the class. The final exam will be cumulative.

***PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARRIVE TO AN EXAM AFTER THE FIRST EXAM IS TURNED IN YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE EXAM, NOR WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO TAKE A MAKEUP.***

Makeup exams will only be given in light of a university excused absence or at the discretion of the instructor. Inform me of your absence before or within 48 hours of the examination date, either in person or by e-mail. I will need specific, written documentation to verify the nature and legitimacy of your absence. You must present this documentation to me, in person, during my office hours (or make an appointment) and before the last week of classes. At that time, I will determine whether you are eligible to take a makeup exam. You will have one (1) hour to complete the makeup exam, which consists of answering *one essay question*. ***All makeup exams will take place during the last week of classes. YOU MUST CONTACT ME BEFORE THE LAST WEEK OF CLASSES TO SCHEDULE A MAKEUP EXAM. MAKE UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR THE FINAL EXAM.***

The optimal way to succeed in this class is to attend class regularly, take good notes, and keep up with the readings. Your notes will alert you to the material that I think is most important, however, everything in the required readings is fair game.

**Party Journals:** At three points during the semester you will be required to submit a 2-3 page paper regarding the policy positions of the main political parties in a particular country (you will be assigned a country). The first of these journals will be focused on economic policy, the second journal will be focused on immigration policy, the third journal will be focused on environmental policy. In these journals, you will have to identify the main political parties of the country you are assigned, and discuss each political party's positions regarding the assigned policy area. If you are having trouble identifying the major political parties, or the policy positions of these parties, please see me immediately.

Each of these journals will be worth 5% of your final grade, with the three journals accounting for 15% of your total grade.

**Final Paper:** You will write a 6-page paper on one party from the country you are examining (this party will be assigned to you). There will be three parts to this paper. In the first third of this paper, you will need to discuss the policy positions of this party in depth, meaning deeper than you went for that party in your party journals. In the second third of this paper, you will be asked to alter the positions of this party with the intention of increasing the party's electoral prospects. In the final third of this paper, you must explain why you believe the changes you made to your party's policy positions will increase the number of votes that party will receive.

The paper is worth 20% of your final grade and will be due May 1st. Please keep in mind that using your own words from your party journals is still considered plagiarism, and therefore would violate university policies on academic honesty.

**Participation:** As this class is seminar style, your participation is necessary, and in fact, is worth 10% of your final grade. I will be keeping track of student participation. Come to class prepared to participate, and ask and answer questions. There may also be unannounced quizzes from time to time as well.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit will not be given in this course.

**Communications:** If you have any questions about the class, please see me during my office hours. If you cannot make my office hours, please schedule an appointment to see me. You are more than welcome to e-mail me as well.

**Dropping Courses:** Please visit the website of UALR Student Records (<http://ualr.edu/records/drop-class/>) for information concerning drops, withdrawals, and other administrative information.

**Students with Disabilities:** Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at [www.ualr.edu/disability](http://www.ualr.edu/disability).

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to cheating on an exam, unauthorized collaboration on an assignment, and plagiarism, is taken very seriously in this course. Students who commit such actions will be reported to the Dean of Students and will receive an F for the course. If you have any questions about whether an action is considered to be academically dishonest, please see me or read the complete description of the UALR policy on academic dishonesty, which is available in the student handbook at [www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/student\\_rights.html](http://www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/student_rights.html).

**Course Materials and Copyright Statement:** The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. “Handouts” refers to all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to presentation slides, syllabi, quizzes, exams, in-class materials review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy, in any manner, including through photographs, the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

### ***Course Schedule (All Dates Subject to Change)***

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

January 23

No Reading to Be Completed for this Day

#### **2. WHAT ARE POLITICAL PARTIES AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**

January 25 - 30

**Read** by January 25:

James Madison, *Federalist 10*. [BB]

Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg. 2000. "Unthinkable Democracy: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. In *Parties without Partisans*, Dalton and Wattenberg, eds. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 5-10. [BB]

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Pgs. 24- 31. [BB]

Joseph Schlesinger. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization." *The Journal of Politics*. 46: 369-400. [BB]

### **3. WHERE DO PARTIES COME FROM? PARTY FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

February 1 – 6

**Read** by February 1:

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1990. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 91-138. [BB]

Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Ch. 8. [BB]  
John Aldrich. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: Chicago UP. Ch. 1. [BB]

### **4. HOW ARE PARTIES ORGANIZED (AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?)**

February 8 – 13

**Read** by February 8:

Maurice Duverger. 1990. "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties" in *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 37-45. [BB]

Otto Kirchheimer. 1990. "The Catch-All Party" in *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed.

New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 50-60. [BB]

Richard Katz and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." *Party Politics*. 1.1: 5-28. [BB]

## **5. ONE, TWO, THREE, OR MORE? PARTY SYSTEMS AND NUMBER OF PARTIES**

February 15 – 20

**Read** for February 15:

Peter Mair. 2002. "Comparing Party Systems" in *Comparing Democracies 2*. Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi, and Pippa Norris, eds. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Pgs. 88-107. [BB]

Steven Rosenstone, Roy Behr, Edward Lazarus. 1996. *Third Parties in America*. Princeton: Princeton UP. Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9. [BB]

"Sunday Dialogue: Two Parties or More?" *New York Times*. Dec. 14, 2013. [BB]

**FEBRUARY 15**

**FIRST PARY JOURNAL DUE**

## **6. NEW CLEAVAGES, NEW ISSUES – NEW PARIES?**

February 22 – 27

**Read** by February 22:

Robert Rohrschneider. 1993. "New Parties versus Old Left Realignments: Environmental Attitudes, Party Policies, and Partisan Affiliations in Four West European Countries." *The Journal of Politics*. 55.3: 682-701. [BB]

Piero Ignazi. 1992. "The Silent Counter-Revolution: Hypotheses on the Emergence of Extreme Right-Wing Parties in Europe." *European Journal of Political Research*. 22: 3-34. [BB]

"Europe's Populist Insurgents: Turning Right." *The Economist*. Jan. 4, 2014. [BB]

Roberta Rice and Donna Lee Van Cott. "The Emergence and Formation of Ethnic Parties in Latin

America: A Sub-national Statistical Analysis.”  
*Comparative Political Studies*. 40.6: 709-732. [BB]

March 1

Review

## **MARCH 4: MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

### **7. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS 1: WHAT’S IN A RULE?**

March 6 – 11

**Read** by March 6:

Farrell, ch. 1-6

### **8. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS 2: WHY DO THEY MATTER?**

March 13 – 25

**Read** by March 13:

Farrell, ch. 7 & 10

Octavio Amorim Neto and Gary Cox. 1997.  
“Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the  
Number of Parties.” *American Journal of Political  
Science*. 41.1: 149-174. [BB]

## **MARCH 17 - 23: SPRING BREAK**

### **9. POLICY, OFFICE, OR VOTES? PARTY STRATEGY AND PARTY CHANGE**

March 27 – April 1

**Read** by March 27:

Kaare Strøm and Wolfgang Müller. 1999. “Political  
Parties and Hard Choices.” In *Policy, Office, Or  
Votes?: How Political Parties in Western Europe  
Make Hard Decisions*, Müller and Strøm, eds. New  
York: Cambridge UP. Pgs. 1-27. [BB]

Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. “Competition between  
Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in  
Niche Party Success.” *American Political Science  
Review*. 99.3: 347-359. [BB]

Jae-Jae Spoon. 2011. *Political Survival of Small  
Parties in Europe*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of  
Michigan Press. Ch. 2 [BB]

MARCH 27

SECOND PARY JOURNAL DUE

## 10. PARTY POSITIONS: WHAT ISSUES MATTER AND WHY

April 3 – 8

Read by April 3:

Budge, Ian and Dennis Farlie. 1983. *Explaining and Predicting Elections: Issue Effects and Party Strategies in Twenty-Three Democracies*. London: George Allen & Unwin. Ch. 2. [BB]

Adams, James, Andrea B. Haupt, and Heather Stoll. 2009. "What Moves Parties? The Role of Public Opinion and Global Economic Conditions in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies*. 42.5: 611-639. [BB]

Van Spanje, Joost. 2010. "Contagious Parties: Anti-Immigration Parties and Their Impact on Other Parties' Immigration Stances in Contemporary Western Europe." *Party Politics* 16.5: 563-586. [BB]

Williams, Christopher, and John Ishiyama. 2018. "Responding to the Left: The Effect of Far-Left Parties on Mainstream Party Euroskepticism" *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. Doi:10.1080/17457289.2018.1434783. [BB]

## 11. EXPLORING PARTY POSITION

April 10 – 15

Read by April 10:

Kenneth Benoit and Nina Weiseshomeier. 2009. "Presidents, Parties, and Policy Competition." *The Journal of Politics*. 71.4: 1435-1447. Appendix. [BB]

Kenneth Benoit and Michael Laver. 2006. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. New York: Routledge. Methodological Appendix—Pgs. 221-238 and Country Data—Pgs. 243-268. [BB]

Hans-Dieter Klingemann, et al. 2001. *Mapping Policy Preferences II*. New York: Oxford UP. Appendix I. Pgs. 150-163. [BB]



**APRIL 10**

**THIRD PARTY JOURNAL DUE**

**12. PARTY IN THE ELECTORATE: PARTISANSHIP AND DEALIGNMENT**

April 17 - 22

**Read by April 17:**

*Parties without Partisans*, chapters 2-4

**13. PARTY IN GOVERNMENT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION**

April 24 - 29

**Read by April 24:**

Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Berkshire, UK: McGraw Hill. Ch. 12. [BB]

Lanny Martin and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45.1: 33-50. [BB]

**14. WRAP UP AND REVIEW**

May 3: FINAL PAPER DUE

May 6: REVIEW

**MAY 8: FINAL EXAM AT 10:30AM**