

American Political Parties

L32 4505

Day: Mondays
Time: 2:00 – 5:00
Location: Seigle 305

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Tues. 9:00-11:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This seminar will introduce students to core literature on political parties with a strong bias towards recent work. After first surveying research on the role of parties in the American political system from the broadest perspective, the class will cover topics in two loosely defined areas:

- Party dynamics in American political history
- The role of parties in public opinion, political behavior, and elections.
- Party institutions in their interactions with elected officials and other political elites.

The course will be seminar-style. The ultimate goal is to introduce students to new areas of research and further students' own research agenda. Accordingly, students will be given a free hand in choosing topics of particular interest to themselves.

Requirements and Evaluation

There are four components of student evaluation in this course.

1. *Class participation (25%)*. Class sessions will be in a seminar style and students are expected to do required readings before the class and come prepared to both ask questions and offer opinion on the work they have read. Students will be expected to read roughly 100-150 pages a week.
2. *Discussion leadership (10%)*: Each student will be asked to sign up as a "discussion leader" for one week. For this class session, the student is expected to pay special attention to the required readings and come prepared to help lead class discussion.

3. *Response papers/Presentations (20%):*

Graduate students: Three times during the semester, students will be expected to choose work from the supplemental reading list and compose an analytical response. This paper should be roughly five pages, and no more than one page may include summary information. Students will be asked to explain their chosen supplemental readings and their critique in class. Students are encouraged, in consultation with me, to go beyond the reading list and incorporate additional work

Undergraduate students: Twice during the semester, students will be expected to choose work from the supplemental reading list and compose a summary of the relevant work. This paper should be roughly five pages. Students will be asked to explain their chosen supplemental readings and lead discussion on this topic in class.

4. *Intermediate deadlines (15%)* – Students will be asked to submit a topic proposal, a preliminary literature review, and an outline of their final research papers (5% each). These can be quite informal, but must be complete and on time. Additional details on these assignments will be provided on these assignments as the semester progresses.

5. *Research paper (30%):* An original research paper on a topic of your choice (10-20 pages). The details of this (and deadline) will be discussed later. Expectations for graduate/undergraduate students will be explained.

Required Books

The required books for this class are listed below. For some books, only a subset of chapters will be assigned. I will try to get all of the additional books on reserve in the library.

- *Why Parties?: A Second Look* (Aldrich 2011)
- *Partisan Bonds: A Unifying Account of Politicians, Political Parties, and their Reputations* (Grynaviski 2010)
- *Party Position Change in American Politics: Coalition Management* (Karol 2009)
- *The Partisan Sort: How Liberals Became Democrats and Conservatives Became Republicans* (Levendusky 2009)

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me before the end of the second week of the semester. All conversations will remain confidential. Please also arrange to have the required documentation sent to me for any accommodations *at least two weeks prior to the first exam.*

Religious observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this semester. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me *before the end of the second week of the semester* to discuss accommodations.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to review the University's policies regarding academic honesty, which you can read at: <http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html>.

In general, if you have any question, please feel free to ask me. All cases of cheating or plagiarism will be referred to Washington University's Committee on Academic Integrity. If the Committee on Academic Integrity finds a student guilty of cheating, then the penalty will be (without exception) automatic failure of the course.

Tentative Schedule

| Date | Topic | Reading Assignment |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| 9/2 | NO CLASS (Labor Day) | |
| 9/9 | Introduction | NA |
| Part I: A theory of parties | | |
| 9/16 | Why Parties? I | Aldrich (2011, Part 1 and 2) |
| 9/23 | Why Parties? II | Aldrich (2011, Part 3 and 4) Aldrich and Grynaviski (2010) |
| Part II: Party dynamics | | |
| 9/30 | Party Systems and Dynamics | Sundquist (1983, Chapters 1-5) |
| 10/7 | Party Dynamics I | Karol (2009, Chapter 1-3) |
| 10/14 | Party Dynamics II | Karol (2009, Chapter 4-6) |
| Part III: Parties and the public | | |
| 10/21 | Party ID | Achen (2002) Bartels (2000) Carsey and Layman (2006) |
| 10/28 | Party and ideology | Levendusky (2009) |
| 11/4 | Reputations 1 | Grynaviski (2010, Chapter 1-3) |
| 11/11 | Reputations 2 | Grynaviski (2010, Chapter 4-7) |
| Part IV: Parties and elites | | |
| 11/18 | Parties and Congress 1 | Cox and McCubbins (2005, Chapters 2, 3, 9, 10) |
| 11/25 | Parties and Congress 2 | Richman (2011) Aldrich and Rohde (2001) Rohde (2010) |
| 12/2 | Parties-as-organization | Schlesinger (1985) TBD |

Supplemental readings

Supplemental Part II

Party systems

Sundquist (1983, Chapters 6-10)

Brewer and Stonecash (2009)

Brewer (2010)

Classic Realignment

Key (1955, 1959)

Realignment Theory

Mayhew (2000, 2002)

Rosenof (2003)

Models or party movement I

Downs (1957)

Kollman, Miller and Page (1992)

Models or party movement II

Layman et al. (2010)

Miller and Schofield (2003)

Aldrich (1983*a,b*)

Parties and race

Key (1949) Chapters 1, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31

Aldrich (2000)

Issue Evolution

Feinstein and Schickler (2008)

Carmines and Stimson (1989, 1986, 1982)

Supplemental Part III

Party ID

Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson (2002), Chapters 1, 4-5, 8-10
Green, Palmquist and Schickler (2002) Chapters 1-5, 8
Fiorina (2002)

Party ID 2

MacKuen, Erikson and Stimson (1989)
Green and Palmquist (1990, 1994)
Green, Palmquist and Schickler (1998)
Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson (1998)

Party as a social identity

Huddy (2003)
Campbell et al. (1960) Chapters 2,4,6-8

Formal models of party reputations

Snyder and Ting (2002)
Levy (2004)
Downs (1957)

Parties as cues 1

Rahn (1993)
Conover and Feldman (1989)

Parties as cues 2

Taber (2003)
Lodge and Taber (2005)
Lau and Redlawsk (2001)

Ambivalence

Lavine, Johnston and Steenbergen (2012)

More reputation

Sniderman and Stiglitz (2012)

Polarization

Abramowitz (2011)
Fiorina (2005)

Supplemental Part IV

CPG – the original
Rohde (1991)

Alternative models
Sinclair (2010)
Krehbiel (1993)
Cox and Poole (2002)

Modeling parties-in-government 2
Den Hartog and Monroe (2011)
Aldrich (1994)
Patty (2008)

A broader view
Smith (2007)

Parties across branches
Krehbiel (1998)
Primo, Binder and Maltzman (2008)

Party effects Jenkins (1999)
Wright and Schaffner (2002)
Lawrence, Maltzman and Smith (2006)

Parties-as-organization II
Herrnson (2010)
Masket (2009)

Parties-as-factions
Cohen et al. (2008)

Parties-as-networks
Koger, Masket and Noel (2009)
Noel (2010)
Monroe (2001)
Masket (2007)
Magleby (2010)

Parties & ideology 1
Lee (2009)

Parties & ideology 2
Hinich and Munger (1996)
Denzau and North (1994)
Gerring (2001)

References

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