

POLA 4160: Political Parties

Instructor

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Office Location

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Office Hours

Tue/Thur 11:00-12:15,
and by appointment

Course Information for Fall 2022

CRN: 41039

Date & Time: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Classroom: Hebert 210

Course Overview

The famous political scientist E.E. Schattschneider said that “...modern democracy is unthinkable save in terms of parties.” Indeed, political parties serve many functions in American politics, including aggregating interests, contesting elections, and organizing government. This course will introduce students to the key features of political parties in the United States. We will explore why parties are created, how parties and party systems have changed over time, what parties do during election campaigns, and how parties make democratic government possible. Students will not only learn how parties fit into American government and politics, but also how people – citizens, voters, activists, and candidates – can influence government and politics through parties.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes: 1) establish a firm grounding in the theories of political party development and party system change in the United States and in other democracies; 2) develop a thorough understanding of the role political parties play in the operation of modern American politics and government; and 3) develop analytical skills with which to analyze the strategic situations faced by political parties during times of campaigning and governing. These learning outcomes contribute to the following program outcomes: 1) demonstrate substantive knowledge and analytical competence in the understanding of political parties and party systems as well as their role in the politics and government of the United States through class discussion and satisfactory completion of all assignments and exams; and 2) develop an understanding of the history of two major political parties in the U.S. as well as the role and challenges faced by third parties in this country.

Required Texts

- Hershey, Marjorie Randon. 2021. *Party Politics in America*. Eighteenth Edition. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 9780367472573.

In addition to the textbook, there are several required articles located on Canvas. Logon to <https://tulane.instructure.com/>, click on the course link for Political Parties, and on the left side of the page click on the link for Files.

Assignments

There will be four components to the grade in this course. There will be midterm and final exams; the exact format will be discussed before each exam. In addition, there will be a course research project that will be completed in two parts; additional details on the research project are at the end of this syllabus. These components will contribute to the final course grade as follows:

| Assignment | Date Due | Points |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Research Proposal | September 13 | 5 Points |
| Research Paper | December 8 | 25 Points |
| Midterm Exam | October 18 | 35 Points |
| Final Exam | December 16 | 35 Points |
| TOTAL | | 100 TOTAL POINTS |

Course Policies

- **Format:** The format for the course will vary. Some classes will primarily consist of lecture, though I will frequently interrupt lecture to call on students to answer questions and give opinions. Other classes will operate as a seminar, and on those days students should be ready to engage one another in discussion. In all circumstances students are encouraged to stop me for questions or comments.
- **Grading:** This course will be graded according to Tulane's plus/minus grading system. Grades will be available by seeing me before or after class or during office hours. I will not provide grades over email or by phone.

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----|----------|----|-----------------|
| A | 93-100 | A- | 90-92.99 | B+ | 87-89.99 |
| B | 83-86.99 | B- | 80-82.99 | C+ | 77-79.99 |
| C | 73-76.99 | C- | 70-72.99 | D+ | 67-69.99 |
| D | 63-66.99 | D- | 60-62.99 | F | 59.99 and below |

- **Expectations:** Students are expected to attend each class, to be on time, and to have all course materials read prior to the class in which they are discussed. Please turn off all electronic devices during class. Laptop computers are not permitted in class; please turn them off and put them away before class starts. All assignments must be completed for a student to pass the course. Requests for regrading any exam or assignment must be made no later than one week after it has been returned. No make-ups will be allowed except in very serious circumstances (I reserve the right to determine what is "very serious"). Course incompletes will only be allowed for circumstances in which the student is physically unable to complete the course; the student must otherwise be passing the course in order to be granted an incomplete.
- **Accommodations:** If you have any kind of special circumstances, such as a disability, illness, or handicap, or if you are involved with a university activity that requires you to miss class, let me know as soon as possible. This information is confidential. All students attending Tulane University with documented disabilities are eligible and encouraged to apply for services with the Goldman Center for Student Accessibility. Please see me or go to <https://accessibility.tulane.edu> for more information. Students needing accommodations must provide me a copy of the accommodation granted by the GCSA as soon as possible.

- **Academic Integrity:** As described in the Tulane University [Code of Academic Conduct](#), students are expected to uphold the honor and integrity of the academic process. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating on an exam (either providing answers to or receiving answers from another student), plagiarism (the use of another author's words or arguments without attribution), and unauthorized collaboration (working with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement). If a student commits any violation of academic integrity, I will pursue disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Academic Conduct.
- **Academic Freedom:** In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, particularly about political ideas, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may disagree with each other at times, or with me. These differences can help enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students (and I) will be encouraged to think and learn. In any event, grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs expressed in class or in assignments.
- **Note regarding syllabus dates:** Please take into consideration the dates of exams and the due dates for essays when scheduling other activities, travel, etc. This applies especially to course requirements that occur immediately before or after holidays. Note also that the final exam date is set by the registrar. Students must take the exam on this date; exceptions can only be granted by the Dean of Newcomb Tulane College. Finally, please note the university-designated makeup dates: October 10, 11, 24, and 25. These dates will be used for makeup classes in the event of a university closure.
- **Religious Accommodation Policy:** <https://registrar.tulane.edu/academic-calendar> (bottom of the page)
- **Title IX Policy / Support:** <https://allin.tulane.edu/>
- **Code of Student Conduct:** <https://conduct.tulane.edu/resources/code-student-conduct>
- **Compliance with COVID-19 Regulations:** <https://tulane.edu/covid-19/health-strategies>

Course Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Aug 23 | Intro / Syllabus | |
| Aug 25 | Intro. to the Study of Parties | Hershey Ch. 1 |
| Aug 30, Sept 1 | Party Systems | *Ware Ch. 5, *Ware Ch. 6 |
| Sept 6 | Party System Change | Hershey pp. 160-165, *Mayhew |
| Sept 8, 13 | American Party Systems | Hershey Ch. 2, Hershey pp. 145-152 |
| <i>Sept 15</i> | <i>No class – Professor at academic conference</i> | |
| Sept 20 | Party Org: National | Hershey Ch. 4 |
| Sept 22 | Party Org: State & Local | Hershey Ch. 3 |
| Sept 27 | Party Org: Activists | Hershey Ch. 5 |
| Sept 29, Oct 4 | Party in the Electorate | Hershey Ch. 6 |
| <i>Oct 6</i> | <i>No class – Fall Break</i> | |
| Oct 11, 13 | Nominations | Hershey Chs. 9 & 10 |
| Oct 18 | MIDTERM EXAM | |
| Oct 20, 25 | General Election | Hershey Ch. 11 |
| Oct 27, Nov 1 | Campaign Finance | Hershey Ch. 12 |
| Nov 3, 8 | Turnout | Hershey Ch. 8 |
| Nov 10 | Midterm Election Discussion | |
| Nov 15, 17 | Party in Govt: Legislature | Hershey Ch. 13 |
| <i>Nov 22, 24</i> | <i>No class – Thanksgiving</i> | |
| Nov 29 | Party in Govt: Exec & Judicial | Hershey Ch. 14 |
| Dec 1 | Third Parties | *Rosenstone Ch. 2, *Rosenstone Ch. 6, *Allen & Brox |
| Dec 6 | Polarization | *Barber & McCarty, *Klein |
| Dec 8 | Future / Reform | Hershey Ch. 16 |

POLA 4160: Political Parties

Research Project

In this project you will explore some aspect of political party activity¹ during the 2022 elections.

Part 1: Proposal – Due September 13

In a paragraph or two, discuss what you plan to write about in your research project. It should clearly define the ‘party’ you plan to research, why you chose that party, what aspect of party activity you will focus on, what course topics your research will address, and what data you will use/where you will find the data/how you will analyze it.

Part 2: Final Paper – Due December 8

Your final paper should be 8-10 pages (typed, double spaced, 1 inch margins, appreciate citations) and include the following:

- A clear research question and explanation as to why this research question is important.
- A (short) literature review that addresses the scholarly foundations of your research.
 - It should include at least five scholarly sources.
 - Think of this section as the way to relate your project to the course topics.
 - Consider the sources included in the notes at the end of the relevant textbook chapter(s). Also look through JSTOR, Google Scholar, and the library catalog to find scholarly sources.
 - Based on your literature review, what do you expect to find about your party and its activity in 2022? (Hypotheses)
- A (short) description of your data and methods.
 - What ‘party’ are you focusing on? Explain your case selection.
 - What ‘data’ are you collecting about that party? Where did you find it? Why is it appropriate for addressing your research question?
- Presentation and analysis of your data.
- A conclusion.
 - Did your data and analysis support your hypotheses?
 - What do you now know about political parties that you did not know before doing this research? (Relate to course topics)

¹ Consider the material in the textbook beginning on page 10.