

AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
PS 575
Spring 2002 • MW 5:30 - 7:18pm

Instructor: Elizabeth Kloss
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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-5:00pm or by appointment
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OVERVIEW

This course is designed to familiarize students with the role political parties play in democracies generally as well as the unique contribution parties make to politics in the United States. We will explore the role of parties as political organizations, as a resource for voters and candidates during elections and as a tool for governing. Specifically, we will investigate parties as state-sanctioned and legally-recognized organizations, as coalitions of voters who are united in professional loyalty to a single political party, and as teams of politicians who organize under the same label during elections and in government. We will focus on how parties, as embedded institutions, shape and are shaped by the political context in which they operate. Finally, we will examine the changes in American parties in recent years and will explore the normative debate surrounding the appropriate role of political parties in an open, democratic society.

REQUIRED READING

Students should purchase *Party Politics in America, 9th edition* by Paul Allen Beck and Marjorie Rasmussen Hershey. This will serve as the core text for the course and is available at SBX.

EVALUATION

Students are required to complete two exams and two short (5 - 7 page) research papers. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade. Class attendance and participation will also be taken into account at the margins in determining final grades. The midterm exam will cover the readings and lectures from the first half of the course, the final will cover the readings and lectures from the second half. Lectures and discussions are designed mainly to complement, and only occasionally review, the readings, so careful reading of the text and regular class attendance are both required for a satisfactory grade in the course.

Papers and exams are expected on time, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance. Hard copies of all papers must be turned in directly to the instructor. **NO ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

The paper assignments are designed to work together to promote your in-depth understanding of the role political parties play in a single American state. Therefore, you should select a state (other than Ohio) as the focus of both your papers. The first paper assignment will ask you to analyze the

organization of both major political parties in your state. Specifically, you should discuss your state's political background and recent electoral history. In addition, you should provide insights into the rules/laws governing political parties in that state as well as the strength, vigor and competitiveness of each party. Lastly, the role of third parties (if any) is to be included as is the degree and frequency of divided government.

The second paper will expect you to build on your knowledge from the first paper and analyze the 2002 primary elections. In this paper you should outline and analyze the major races being contested (or not) by each party and discuss the role each party organization has played recruiting, training, financing and generally supporting candidates. Lastly, assess how you believe the results of the primary elections will affect the general election in November and the future politics and government your state.

Your papers should each be 5 - 7 pages in length and double (not 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3) spaced. Please number your pages and be sure that your paper is stapled before you turn it in. You have two choices for fonts: Times New Roman 12pt. Or CG Times 12 pt. Your margins should be no more than one inch on all sides.

Remember, you must cite any information and/or ideas that you take from some else's work. Also note, you should limit your use of direct quotations (someone else's words surrounded by """) to the **rare** occasion when they have stated your own point perfectly and it can not be improved. Otherwise, you are generally better off stylistically using your own words and citing the ideas/facts provided by other authors.

For citations, I prefer that students use the Scientific Style outlined in the *Chicago Manual of Style*. However, any citation method is acceptable as long as it is used correctly and consistently. For help with citation styles, the library has a useful site located at:
<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/#citationguides>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All of the work that students do in this course is expected to be their own. Cheating or plagiarism (using some else's words or ideas, including material from web sites, without proper citations) will not be tolerated. Any case of possible academic misconduct in the form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported automatically to the University Committee of Academic Misconduct and handled according to University policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and they should inform the course instructor immediately of their needs.

COURSE SYLLABUS

The following pages contain a topical outline for the course, the reading assignments for each topic, and the schedule of exam dates and paper deadlines. All readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

WEEK 1: April 1 - 5

What are political parties and what do they do?

M: Course introduction

W: Beck and Hershey, chaps. 1 - 2, pp. 1-50

WEEK 2: April 8 - 12

Political parties as organizations.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 3, pp. 51-73

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 4, pp. 74-91

WEEK 3: April 15 - 19

Organizations, continued.

Political parties and voters.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 5, pp. 92-110

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 6, pp. 111-133

WEEK 4: April 22 - 26

Parties and voters, continued.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 7, pp. 133-147

W: PAPER #1 DUE

WEEK 5: April 30 - May 3

Political parties and the electorate.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 8, pp. 148-168

W: MID-TERM EXAM

WEEK 6: May 6 - 10

Political parties and elections.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 9, pp. 169-187

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 10, pp. 188-208

WEEK 7: May 13 - 17

Elections, continued.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 11, pp. 209-229

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 12, pp. 230-254

WEEK 8: May 20 - 24

The role of political parties in governing.

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 13, pp. 255-279

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 14, pp. 280-296

PAPER #2 DUE

WEEK 9: May 27 - 31

Governing, continued.

M: MEMORIAL DAY - NO CLASS

W: Beck and Hershey, chap. 15, pp. 297-315

WEEK 10: June 3 - 7

What are political parties and what do they do?

M: Beck and Hershey, chap. 16, pp. 316-331

W: FINAL EXAM (???)