

POL 352: Political Parties
Spring 2010
SRC 105

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Office Hours: T 3-5 p.m. & by appointment

This course analyzes the role of parties in American democracy. Parties are ubiquitous in American politics—recruiting and financing candidates, organizing coalitions, and promoting cooperation in government. Yet parties are hard to define and their effects are hard to measure. Thus this class seeks to define parties, identify their functions, and trace their influence. To accomplish these goals, this course develops a theoretical framework for understanding parties as cooperative solutions to basic democratic problems.

Required Texts

A collection of readings is available on the course Blackboard page. You **MUST** bring the appropriate readings for each section to class with you.

Student Behavior

Students are required to read all assigned readings and bring them to class, attend all lectures, and participate in class. Students are expected to avoid profanity, to turn off cell phones, and to arrive on time. Students who fail to conform to expectations may be asked to leave the classroom with a grade penalty.

The grade breakdown is:

Participation:	10%
Midterm:	20%
Paper:	40%
Final:	30%

Papers are due at the start of class. Late papers are docked a **full grade** for each day late. Students may schedule a make-up exam with documentation if illness or family death prevents attendance at the midterm. *No excuses* will be accepted for late papers; students are responsible for beginning their papers early, avoiding computer problems, and getting papers to me in a timely fashion.

Students are expected to do their own work. Students must cite sources used to write their papers. All work submitted in this class must be original work and cannot be submitted to more than one class. This policy is required to encourage consistent ethical behavior among students and to foster a climate of fair competition. Consequently, the Undergraduate Student Honor Code in is force at all times. Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and upholding the Honor Code which is available from the Office of the Dean of Students.

Facebook: for both our sakes, I do not “friend” undergraduate students.

Week	Topics and Readings
Jan. 19, 21	Introduction. Parties and Factions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federalist 10
Jan. 26, 28	The Benefits of Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schattschneider, <i>Party Government</i>, Ch. 3: "What is a Political Party?" John Aldrich, <i>Why Parties</i>, ch. 2
Feb. 2, 4	Parties and the Constitution; Electoral Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohen et al: "The Creation of New Parties" ch. 3 of <i>The Party Decides</i>; and "Political Parties in Rough Weather," <i>Forum</i> 2008
Feb. 9, 11	Party Organization: Structure and Presidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>CQ Report</i>: "Political Conventions" Galvin, "Changing Course Reversing the Organizational Trajectory of the Democratic Party from Bill Clinton to Barack Obama." <i>Forum</i> 2008. Milkis & Rhodes, "Barack Obama, The Democratic Party, and the Future of the 'New American Party System.'" <i>The Forum</i> 2009
Feb. 16, 18	Party Organization: Money and Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>CQ Report</i>: "Campaign Finance Reform" 2008 <i>Open Secrets</i> Donor Survey Skinner, "Do 527's Add Up to a Party?..." <i>Forum</i>, 2005 Koger, Masket, Noel, "Cooperative Party Factions," <i>Am Politics Research</i> 2010
Feb. 23, 25	Partisanship in the Electorate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menand, "Unpolitical Animals," <i>New Yorker</i>, 2004 Selections from Pew Reports on the politically divided nation (2003) and intra-party factions (2005) <i>CQ Report</i>: "Changing Electorate" June 2008
Mar. 2, 4	2008 Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceaser and DiSalvo, The Magnitude of the 2008 Democratic Victory <i>Forum</i> 2009 Klinkner and Schaller, "LBJ's Revenge." <i>Forum</i> 2008.
Mar. 9, 11	Review (Mar. 9) and MIDTERM (Mar. 11)
Mar. 23, 25, 30	Party Brands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Macropartisanship" ch. 4 from <i>Macro Polity</i> Pope and Woon, "Measuring Changes in American Party Reputations, 1939–2004" <i>PRQ</i> 2008
April 1, 6	Strategic Party Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lebo, McGlynn, and Koger, "Strategic Party Government: Party Influence in Congress, 1789-2000." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, July 2007, 464-481. Carson, Koger, Lebo, and Young "The Electoral Consequences of Party Loyalty in Congress."
April 8, 13	Congressional Parties II: Leaders and Voting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinclair, Orchestrators of Unorthodox Lawmaking," <i>Forum</i> 2008 King and Zeckhauser, "Congressional Vote Options," <i>LSQ</i> 2003
April 15, 20, 22	Congressional Parties III: Agendas and Message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lee, "Agenda Content and Senate Party Polarization, 1981-2004" Connelly and Pitney, The Politics of Constraint," <i>Forum</i> 2008 <p>→ PAPERS DUE April 22!</p>
April 27, 29	Parties and Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawrence et. al, 2006. "Who Wins? Party Effects in Legislative Voting." <i>LSQ</i>, 33-69. Binder, "Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock" <i>APSR</i> 1999
May 6	Final 8 a.m., same room.