

POLITICAL PARTIES

PS 3120-001

Department of Political Science

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Tuesday-Thursday

Autumn Semester 2006

10:45 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

OSH 137

ADJ. ASST. PROFESSOR: Tim Chambless, Ph.D.
OSH 308 (801) 581-4965 tchambless@poli-sci.utah.edu
Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30 a.m. + TH 8:00-9:00 a.m. & by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome. I am Tim Chambless, the professor for PS 3120-001 – “Political Parties” taught during Autumn Semester 2006 at 10:45 a.m.-12:05 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. I have taught classes in American National Government for many years in addition to other courses in Constitutional Law and Mass Communication Law, Controversial Legal Issues/Post 9/11 Terrorism, Law and Society, and since 1994 an unique one-week seminar in Washington, D.C.

This “Political Parties” course gives highly motivated students the opportunity to gain conceptual awareness of America’s political and governmental structure and to examine the concepts/structure as well as the history and legal status and accomplishments of American political parties. Attention is given to America’s political history and the political figures who have emerged in the last 230 years since the United States Constitution was put forth – in the words of George Washington as “an experiment in democracy.” Students will consider the actions of American politicians who utilize political parties as governmental untested tools to realize the promises contained with the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, as well as the ongoing experiment in Federalism.

This course is, arguably, always a timely and relevant, controversial and relevant course. Political parties have emerged as the organizational framework within which concerned citizens participate and rise to positions of power and responsibility as they assume governmental positions. Historically, political parties have appeared and disappeared while exchanging views on a great variety of issues extremely important to Americans. Although this course will try to cover all significant aspects of American political within a 15-week academic semester, quite honestly, that is impossible to achieve in a substantive manner. Therefore, we will selectively perceive/emphasize key concepts and consider key questions inherent with a serious study of America’s political parties.

Specifically, PS 3120 explores the relationship between political parties and Congress, the Presidency, the federal courts, a free (but imperfect) press, and many interest groups in an academic attempt to discern patterns. Certain central questions/themes are studied:

- (1) HOW and WHY did political parties emerge?
- (2) HOW have political parties helped “an experiment in democracy” succeed?
- (3) HOW have political parties failed to meet the needs of the American people?
- (4) HOW do political parties cope with changing constituencies and members?
- (5) WHAT can U.S. political parties possibly learn from foreign political parties?

To be successful, it is very important that you attend each class meeting. If you have the goal of earning an excellent grade, then it is essential that you be pro-active and study

some each day. (Generally, you should study two hours for each class meeting; e.g., each week, six hours of study for three hours of class.) It is my hope that such study will allow you to achieve the following course goals:

- (1) To appreciate the concept/evolution of grass roots democracy
- (2) To know the history of America's political parties
- (3) To appreciate the Declaration of Independence and its calls to action
- (4) To understand the United States Constitution – and its Amendments
- (5) To distinguish between how political parties campaign and govern
- (6) To comprehend how America's political parties are structured
- (7) To perceive differences between the national party and state parties
- (8) To see how one or two issues can bring about party realignments
- (9) To discern why the U.S. has traditionally sustained two political parties
- (10) To consider why third party movements have ultimately been unsuccessful

The basic factual knowledge on the American political system is presented clearly in the Keefe & Hetherington textbook Parties, Politics, and Public Policy in America. In class discussion, I will proceed with class discussion with the expectation that you have already read the subject matter scheduled for that day's class meeting. Frequently, we will consider new material and perspectives in lectures than subject matter encountered in the textbook. The text will be complemented by references to the daily New York Times. Be prepared! If you have questions about the textbook or stories which appear in the daily news stories, then please do ask those questions during our class discussion.

READINGS

PARTIES, POLITICS, & PUBLIC POLICY in America (2007 Edition)
by William J. Keefe and Marc J. Hetherington, CQ Press

2005/2006 U.S. Congressional Directory, C-SPAN, 109th Congress

New York Times, C-SPAN, CNN News, CBS 60 Minutes, NBC, ABC

Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Political Campaigns (1999)
By Ronald J. Hrebener, Matthew J. Burbank, & Robert C. Benedict

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS

NOTE: All work done is expected to be your original work. Plagiarism (the use of other people's work without proper attribution) or cheating on exams/papers will NOT be tolerated. Cheating is unacceptable behavior. Such behavior will be grounds for the assignment of a failing grade for this course. Please do not cheat. Do your own work.

Please turn off all cell phones during our class meetings. A ringing phone is highly disruptive to the learning environment. Please be considerate.

If you need to depart the room for any reason during class discussions, then please do as quietly as possible. The Instructor normally conducts class meetings/discussions for the scheduled 80 minutes without time taken for a break.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Three 80-minute hour examinations and five papers will constitute the grading criteria for this course. Each exam features 100 multiple-choice questions for a total of 300 points +

two required papers which will equal 200 points. (Each paper will have 20 points possible.) The three multiple-choice examinations will have content questions with a-e choices/options. For example, here are possible examination questions...

- | | |
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| <p>(1) Which political party was founded originally as an anti-slavery party from other failed third party efforts and from an entrenched 50-year party?</p> <p>a. Federalist Party
b. Democratic-Republican Party
c. Whig Party
d. Republican Party
e. Populist Party</p> | <p>(2) Why did Lyndon Johnson predict that his Support of the 1964 Civil Rights Act would give the Republican Party control of the So-called "Solid South" by the 1970s?</p> <p>a. The politics of reapportionment
b. <u>Baker v. Carr</u> (1962)
c. The politics of Federalism
d. <u>Reynolds v. Sims</u> (1964)
e. The politics of race</p> |
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GRADING SCALE

Points gained from the 3 examinations and 5 papers are considered on the standard 100 point grading scale. There is no penalty for guessing. Note the class grading scale. (Class participation can be considered for meaningful involvement.) The grading scale is:

A = 100-93	A- = 92-90	B+ = 89-87	B = 86-83
B- = 82-80	C+ = 79-77	C = 76-73	C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67	D = 66-63	D- = 62-60	E = 59-00

Total Points Possible = 400 points divided by 4

"MAKE-UP" EXAMS

"Make-up" exams will NOT be given - unless a student makes a special arrangement prior to the scheduled exam date, or cannot work with a special accommodation offered. Any make-up examination will be an essay exam unless arranged PRIOR to the exam date; a late make-up exam results in a full letter grade being dropped each day after the exam date - unless an explanation includes a physician's note signed/dated and on letterhead stationery.

The dates for the two examinations as well as the two papers are identified below.

<u>3 EXAMS:</u>	9/12	EXAM #1:	100 questions + 10 bonus questions	=	100 points
	10/26	EXAM #2:	100 questions + 10 bonus questions	=	100 points
	12/7	EXAM #3	100 questions + 10 bonus questions	=	<u>100 points</u>
					300 points
<u>5 PAPERS DUE:</u>	9/5, 9/19, 10/3 +		1 page maximum/typed + 2 minute talk	+	<u>100 points</u>
	11/9 and 11/28		TOTAL POINT SCORE POSSIBLE	=	400 points

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Attendance & relevant/appropriate Q/A = Can Vary

Each paper assignment examines an aspect of political parties and requires critical thinking and problem-solving. Critical thinking short papers must be typed, have standard margins/standard print font, be concise/precise, and cite sources - other than the Keefe and Hetherington textbook - and be one page maximum. Format can be either double-spaced or single-spaced. Please give attribution to an idea which is not your own idea(s). That is, if the conclusion originated with someone else, then please cite the appropriate individual or publication in your paper as part of your critical thinking/problem-solving effort.

Extra-credit points can be gained by participation in class. Students who speak up during class discussion can definitely help their final grade. Also, PS 3120 will benefit from political figures who will speak at the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics in OSH 255 (the caucus room). Students can earn 3 points if they ask substantive and relevant question. Dates for those Hinckley Forum speakers will be announced in our class meetings.

Class participation is important IF the student's final grade is on the borderline. It requires appropriate question & answer dialogue. The answer can never be known if the question is not asked. And I believe that there is no such thing as a bad question. I value meaningful/substantive questions which relate directly to the study of Political Parties. Please note: Class participation points are impossible for students who do not attend class.

The grade of "Incomplete" will only be given in certain extraordinary circumstances. Incompletes can be given only if the student has completed at least three of the five major assignments (e.g., two exams and one paper, or one exam and two papers) and the student submits a request for a grade of Incomplete in writing to the Instructor prior to the final class day + a note on letterhead from a physician/counselor. All Incompletes must be approved by the Instructor. We will need consensus on a plan to complete the course.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodation in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

I believe it is important to get involved in the political process, and in the community. I have worked as an aide for a U.S. Senator and Congressman, for a Governor of Utah and a Mayor of Salt Lake City. I have participated in about 25 Utah political campaigns. I served (1990-2001) on the Salt Lake City Board of Adjustment (hears/decides planning disputes, and was Board Chair for 8 years). I served on the Salt Lake County Fine Arts Advisory Board and City Police-Citizen Review Board, and am a Utah board member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Since September 2001, I have served on the Salt Lake City Planning Commission - appointed by the Mayor and City Council - and served as Chair in 2004-2005.

As your Instructor and a former student at the University of Utah, I look forward to getting to know you during the semester. Please feel comfortable in contacting me if and when you have a question about America's political parties, or about any interest in a political internship with the University's Hinckley Institute of Politics. Come see me.

Good luck!

Tim Chambless, Ph.D.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS/EXAMS/PAPERS</u>
8/24	HBB: 1-30	POLITICAL PARTIES - Their Historical Rise and Fall Federalist/Democrats/Whig/Free Soil/Republicans/Populists
8/29	HBB: 1-30	POLITICAL PARTIES - 20 th Century Historical Changes Progressive/Socialist/Communist/States' Rights/Green/Reform
8/31	KH: 1-15	POLITICAL PARTIES and THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

		Selection of leaders/Control of Government/Elections
9/5	PAPER #1 DUE	Your party affiliation? Praise that other Party... 1 page paper (10 points) + 2 minute talk (10 points)
9/7	KH: 15-25	POLITICAL PARTIES and THE POLITICAL SYSTEM National Committee/Chair + "Old Style"/"New Style"
9/12	EXAM #1	100 Multiple-Choice Questions + 10 Bonus Questions
9/14	KH: 31-45	AMERICAN PARTIES: Characteristics & Competition Stereotypes? Values? Predictable voting behavior?
9/19	PAPER #2 DUE	Case Study: A Utah State Senator or Representative 1 page paper (10 points) + 2 minute talk (10 points)
9/21	Hinckley Forum KH: 45-62	Thomas Mann: <u>CONGRESS – The Broken Branch</u> (2006) THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM: Keep it? Change it?
9/26	HINCKLEY FORUM: 11:40-12:05	Candidates Debate (Salt Lake County Attorney) Class Discussion + Q/A Review for Exam #1
9/28	Congressional Directory data	Members of Congress – U.S. House & U.S. Senate Members of Utah State House and Utah State Senate
9/29	FRIDAY	Western States Presidential 2008 Primary Symposium 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Marriott City Ctr., 220 So. State St.
10/3	PAPER #3 DUE	Western States Regional Primary? Yes? No? Why? 1 page paper (10 points) + 2 minute talk (10 points)
10/5		SEMESTER BREAK – NO CLASS MEETING
10/10	KH: 67-75	POLITICAL PARTIES/ELECTORAL PROCESS: NOMINATIONS Nominating Methods/Types of Primary Elections
10/12	KH: 75-99	POLITICAL PARTIES/ELECTORAL PROCESS: NOMINATIONS Selecting a President – Role of Party Conventions
10/17	KH: 105-114	CAMPAIGNS and CAMPAIGN FINANCE Campaign Organization(s) and Campaign Strategy
10/19	HINCKLEY FORUM 11:40-12:05	Nigeria's Ambassador to the U.S. George Obiozor Class Discussion + Campaigns/Campaign Finance
10/24	KH: 114-122	CAMPAIGNS and CAMPAIGN FINANCE
10/26	EXAM #2	100 Multiple-Choice Questions + 10 Bonus Questions

10/31	KH: 122-136	CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES/MAKING of PUBLIC POLICY Party Elections/Party Representation/Party Organization
11/2	KH: 143-157	Class Discussion – Party Differences on Public Policy
11/7	ELECTION DAY Cong. Directory	Class Discussion: Will Democrats win House/Senate? 2008? [3 points of extra credit IF you can prove you voted Tuesday]
11/9	PAPER #4 DUE	Election Results: Who Won? Who Lost? Why? Future 1 page paper (10 points) + 2 minute talk (10 points)
11/14	Hinckley Forum KH: 185-202	Larry Sabato: 2006 Election Results & the Future Congress PARTY IDENTIFICATION, PARTISANSHIP, and ELECTIONS Family, Gender, Religion, Race, Age, Education, Wealth
11/16	KH: 202-213	PARTY IDENTIFICATION, PARTISANSHIP, and ELECTIONS
11/21	Handouts	POLITICAL CARTOONS: e.g., Pat Bagley, <u>Salt Lake Tribune</u>
11/23		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY- NO CLASS MEETING
11/28	PAPER #5 DUE	WHO AM I? [Political Party bio of your #1 Member of Congress] 1 page paper (10 points) + 2 minute talk (10 points)
11/30	KH: 219-240	THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM: PROBLEMS Party platforms, Loss of power, Campaign managers, Media
12/5	KH: 240-260	THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM: PERSPECTIVES Partisanship, Changing demographics, Racial polarization,
12/7	EXAM #3	100 QUESTIONS + 10 BONUS QUESTION

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INFORMATION SHEET

Your Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone #:

E-mail address:

Prior Education:

[Name of high school]:

[Name of college(s) attended]:

Academic Major:

Career Goal:

Language(s) spoken:

Other nations lived in:

What do you like best about America's political parties?

What do you NOT like about America's political parties?

Do you self-identify with a political party?
If so, then why? If not, then why not?