

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3120
POLITICAL PARTIES AND CAMPAIGNS
3 CREDIT HOURS
Spring 2006
Mondays and Wednesdays 8:05-9:25 am
BEH S 107

Nora Wood, ABD, adjunct faculty

Office: OSH 252a

Telephone: 355-8172 or 652-4591

Email: norawoodis@comcast.net

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00 and by appointment

Course Description

The University course catalogue describes this course as *a history of American political parties; roles and function of parties; and current problems of parties.*

In 1942 E.E. Schattschneider said:

The rise of political parties is indubitably one of the principle distinguishing marks of modern government. The parties, in fact, have played a major role as makers of democratic government. It should be stated flatly at the outset that...political parties created democracy and that modern democracy is unthinkable save in terms of the parties.

One of the main purposes of this class will be to debate the merits of the above statement. In order to do so, we will learn about the role of political parties in American politics and will compare that role to the roles played by political parties of other countries. We will also examine the history of political parties in America and better understand their position in American politics today. Much of the course will be spent evaluating the importance of political parties in American politics today. Do political parties continue to be essential components of democracy or are they less relevant than they once were? Does our two party system hinder or enhance democracy? Historically, why has there been a dearth of third parties in America and what is the likelihood of an influential third party in the future? These and many other questions will hopefully lead the student to a better understanding of the unique role of political parties in American politics.

Texts

John F. Bibby. 2003. *Politics, Parties, and Elections in America*. 5th ed. Belmont, California: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Robert E. Diclerico. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

All other readings are available on electronic reserve at the library.

Course Requirements

All students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Exams will be extremely difficult if you don't attend class.

Course grades will be based upon the following:

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|----|---|--------------|
| 1) | Attendance and class participation | (50 points) |
| 2) | First Midterm Wednesday, February 15th | (100 points) |
| 3) | Second Midterm Wednesday, March 29th | (100 points) |
| 4) | Final exam (comprehensive) Thursday, May 4th 8:00am | (225 points) |
| 5) | 4 Position Papers (25 points each) Due dates below | (100 points) |
| 6) | News Presentation | (25 points) |
- Total points possible = 600

Exams will consist of short answer essays with the possibility of longer essays on the final.

First Position Paper: The first position paper will be thoroughly described in class during the first week and will be a brief one-page exercise in critical thinking. (25 points)

Subsequent Position Papers—Each student will write 3 position papers. The topics will be chosen from the 7 chapters in *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. For example, if you choose to write a position paper on Chapter Four, “Voting: The Matter of Turnout” you will thoroughly read the views of each of the authors in that chapter. You will then formulate your own opinion concerning voter turnout and do a bit more research on the topic. You will then write a 3 to 4 page position paper in which you state why you agree or disagree with each of the authors in the chapter. You will then explain your own position on the subject utilizing at least two outside sources to strengthen your position. Please do not merely restate the opinions found in the chapter!!! Tell me why you agree or disagree with the authors, formulate your own opinion, and back up your opinion with other sources. The outside sources can come from any media source and need to be properly documented in your paper.

You are free to choose any three chapters from *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*.

The due dates for these papers are:
January 25th (Critical Thinking exercise)
February 13th
March 6th
April 10th

(4 x 25 = 100 points)

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted nor will I accept emailed assignments.

News Presentation: Each student will be required to make a five-minute presentation concerning something they have recently found interesting in the news that deals with political parties. The topic can be either local or national. Your source must be a reputable media source. Your presentation should include a brief explanation of the event, followed by your analysis of why this event is important in the study of political parties, campaigns, and voting. You will be graded on the relevance of the event chosen and the effectiveness of your presentation. A sign up sheet for this assignment will be distributed the second week of class.

(25 points)

Total points

600

Your grade will be determined on a percentage basis. For example, if you earn 510 of the 600 points, your grade will be 85% or a B.

COURSE OUTLINE

All listed readings should be completed before coming to class.

Week One

January 9th and 11th Introduction and analysis of critical thinking

READ:

Herbert, Bob. 2005. "Blood Runs Red, Not Blue." *The New York Times* 18 August.

Paul, Richard and Linda Elder. 2003. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking*. The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

Week Two

January 16th No Class - Martin Luther King Day

January 18th Conclusions to Critical Thinking

What is a political party and what is the role of political parties?

American party system viewed comparatively

Divided government

READ:

Bibby, Chapter 1

Diclerico, Chapter 7

Week Three

January 23rd Divided government continued

READ: Carter, Jimmy. 2005. *Our Endangered Values*. New York: Simon Schuster. Chapter 10.

January 25th History of political parties in America

READ: Bibby, Chapter 2 and 3

First position paper on critical thinking due January 25th

Week Four

January 30th and February 1st History of political parties continued

READ: Diclerico, Chapter 6

Week Five
February 6th and 8th Party Organizations
READ: Bibby, Chapter 4

Week Six
February 13th Parties and political leadership --- nomination politics – Selecting the party’s candidate
READ: Bibby, Chapter 5
Second position paper due February 13th

February 15th **FIRST MIDTERM**

Week Seven
February 20 **No Class – Presidents’ Day**
February 22nd Selecting the party’s presidential candidate
READ: Bibby, Chapter 6
Diclerico, Chapter 1

Week Eight
February 27th Continuation of presidential candidate selection
March 1st The American electorate ---Political socialization and voting behavior
READ: Bibby, Chapter 8
Diclerico, Chapter 4

Week Nine
March 6th and 8th Political Socialization continued
READ: Diclerico, Chapter 5

Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. 2005. *War and the American Presidency*. New York: Norton. Chapters 4 and 5.

Third position paper due March 6th

Week Ten **SPRING BREAK**

Week Eleven
March 20th and 22nd Campaigns and Campaign Finance. How effective are the new reforms?
READ: Bibby, Chapter 7

Diclerico, Chapter 2

Nickerson, David W. 2005. "Partisan Mobilization Using Volunteer Phone Banks and Door Hangers." *The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science*; 601. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Levine, Peter and Mark Hugo Lopez. 2005. "What We Should Know about the Effectiveness of Campaigns but Don't." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*; Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Diclerico, Robert E. and Allan S. Hammock. 2004. *Points of View*. Boston: McGraw Hill. Chapter 7.

Week Twelve

March 27th Campaigns and the Media – Modern Campaigning
READ: Diclerico, Chapter 3

Hill, Steven. 2002. *Fixing Elections*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 10.

March 29th **SECOND MIDTERM**

Week Thirteen

April 3rd and 5th Political Parties and the governing process
READ: Bibby, Chapter 9

Diclerico, Robert E. and Allan S. Hammock. 2004. *Points of View*. Boston: McGraw Hill. Chapter 8.

Carter, Jimmy. 2005. *Our Endangered Values*. New York: Simon Schuster. Chapter 6.

Week Fourteen

April 10th and 12th Party Reform – Is it needed? Where is a third party? So who was this guy Jesse Ventura?

READ: Bibby, Chapter 10

Farah, George. 2004. *No Debate*. New York: Seven Stories Press. Chapters 1,2,3, and 5.

Sabato, Larry J. and Bruce Larson. 2002. *The Party's Just Begun*. New York: Longman. Chapters 6 and 7.

Fourth position paper due April 10th

Week Fifteen Culture War in America. How divided are Americans?
April 17 and 19

READ: Carter, Jimmy. 2005. *Our Endangered Values*. New York: Simon Schuster.
Chapters: Introduction, 1, 3, and 4.

Morris P. Fiorina. 2005. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*.
James Davison Hunter. 1992. *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define
America*.

Dye, Thomas R. and Harmon Zeigler. 2001. *The Irony of 2000: Seeking Legitimacy in
a Divided Nation*. Forth Worth: Harcourt Custom Publishers.

Week Sixteen

April 24th and 26th Conclusions and Fixing the System

READ: Hill, Steven. 2002. *Fixing Elections*. New York: Routledge. Part Four.

THURSDAY, MAY 4th ---- FINAL EXAM 8:00 AM

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations 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.