

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3120**  
**POLITICAL PARTIES AND CAMPAIGNS**  
**3 CREDIT HOURS**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:10 to 10:30 am**  
**MBH 113**

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### **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, especially in an election year, 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*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Morris P. Fiorina. 2005. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*. New York: Pearson Longman.

Each student is also expected to read all articles pertaining to the election and political parties every day in the web version of the *New York Times*. Quiz questions will be taken from these articles.

All other readings are available on reserve at the library. Some will be on electronic reserve and others will need to be physically checked out.

### **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:

- 1) 11 unannounced quizzes each worth 10 points. Quiz questions will be taken from the *New York Times*. Under no circumstances will make up quizzes be offered. You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz. (100 points)
  - 2) First Midterm **Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** (100 points)
  - 3) Second Midterm **Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** (100 points)
  - 4) Final exam (comprehensive) **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 8:00am** (200 points)
- Total points possible = 500

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

**Your grade will be determined on a percentage basis. For example, if you earn 420 of the 500 points, your grade will be 84% or a B.**

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

*All listed readings should be completed before coming to class.*

#### **Week One**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** Introduction –What is a political party and what is the role of political parties?

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 1

On reserve: Diclerico, Robert E. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. Chapter 7 “Parties , Elections, and Governance”

Diclerico, Robert E. and Allan S. Hammock *Points of View*. Chapter 8 “Political Parties”

#### **Week Two**

**January 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>** History of political parties in America

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 2

On Reserve: Diclerico, Robert E. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*  
Chapter 6 “Voting: A Macro-Level View”

**Week Three**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>** American party system viewed comparatively

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 3

**Week Four**

**January 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>** Culture Wars in America. How divided are Americans?

**READ:** Morris P. Fiorina. 2005. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America.*

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

McKenna, George and Stanley Feingold. 2001. *Taking Sides.* Issue 12 “Does the Religious Right Threaten American Freedoms?”

**Week Five**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>** Culture Wars continued

**READ:** On reserve: Victor’s Gold’s *Invasion of the Party Snatchers*

Rozell, Mark J. and John Kenneth White. 2002. *Contemporary Reading in American Government.* Part Five “Culture and Politics”

**Week Six**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** Party Organization

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 4

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** **FIRST MIDTERM**

**Week Seven**

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Nominations for State and Congressional Offices

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 5

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** Presidential nominating Politics

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 6

On reserve: Diclerico, Robert E. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections.*  
Chapter 1 “The Nominating Process.”

McKenna, George and Stanley Feingold. 2001. *Taking Sides*. Issue number 2. “Do Political Campaigns Promote Good Government?”

**Week Eight**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** The American electorate ---Political socialization and voting behavior

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 7

On reserve: Diclerio, Robert E. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. Chapter four – “Voting: The Matter of Turnout” and Chapter 5 “The Voting Decision”

**Week Nine**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** Political Socialization continued

**READ:** On Reserve: Bose, Meena and John J. DiIulio. 2007. *Classic Ideas and Current Issues in American Government*. Chapter 5 “Political Participation” and in Chapter 7 “Elections and Campaigns” 7.1 “Theories of Retrospective Voting” and 7.2 “The Setting: Valence Politics in Modern Elections”

Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. 2005. *War and the American Presidency*. New York: Norton. Chapters 5 and 6.

**Week Ten**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** Campaigns and Campaign Finance. How effective are the new reforms?

**READ:** Bibby, chapter 8

On Reserve: Bose, Meena and John J. DiIulio. 2007. *Classic Ideas and Current Issues in American Government*. Chapter 7 issue 7.3 “Even With Campaign Finance Law, Money Talks Louder Than Ever.”

McKenna, George and Stanley Feingold. 2001. *Taking Sides*. Issue 3 “Should Campaign Finance Be Reformed?”

Rozell, Mark J., and John Kenneth White. 2002. *Contemporary Readings in American Government*. Issue 8 “Campaign Finance After the 2000 Elections: A New Regime?”

**Week Eleven SPRING BREAK**

**Week Twelve**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** Campaigns and the Media – Modern Campaigning

**READ:** On Reserve: Bose, Meena and John J. DiIulio. 2007. *Classic Ideas and Current Issues in American Government*. Chapter 8 “The Media.”

Diclerico, Robert E. 2000. *Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. Chapter 3 “The Media and Campaigns”  
Hill, Steven. 2002. *Fixing Elections*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 10.

**March 27<sup>th</sup> SECOND MIDTERM**

**Week Thirteen**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** Political Parties and the governing process  
**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 9

**Week Fourteen April 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Third Party Candidates**

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

Abramson, Paul R. et al. “Third-Party and Independent Candidates in American Politics: Wallace, Anderson, and Perot.” *Political Science Quarterly*. 1995 110:3.

Rozell, Mark J., and John Kenneth White. 2002. *Contemporary Readings in American Government*. Article 6 “Two Party Dominance and Minor Party Forays in American Politics.”

**Week Fifteen April 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Party Reform – Is it needed?**

**READ:** Bibby, Chapter 9

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

**Week Sixteen April 22<sup>nd</sup> Conclusions and Fixing the System**

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

Bose, Meena and John J. DiIulio. 2007. *Classic Ideas and Current Issues in American Government*. Chapter 7 issue 7.4 “Reforming the Electoral System”

**FRIDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 8-10 AM FINAL EXAM**

*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.*