

Political Science 401
SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2-3; and by appointment

Course Description: The first part of the course will explore the history and structure of the party system in America, how it compares to other countries, and the struggle of third parties in America. The second part of the class will explore political parties as organizations working towards electoral victory. The third part of the class will examine parties as changing coalitions of voters. The fourth part examine the effects of party affiliations in the U.S. Congress and legislatures. We will conclude the course by considering the future of American political parties.

Readings: The following books are required for this course:

- Hershey, Marjorie. *Party Politics in America, 17th Edition*
 - Drutman, Lee. *Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop*
 - Selected articles and book chapters available via NCSU on-line reserve (marked with *)
- You are also expected to read the *New York Times* or *Washington Post* daily in order to discuss how contemporary political issues are related political parties.

Requirements and Grading:

- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Paper #1 15%
- Paper #2 25%
- Participation 15%

Class Participation

Class participation is an *integral* part of the class. At minimum, this means good attendance. Students are also expected to be attentive during lectures and to ask questions and contribute comments to class discussions. *You should come to each class having read the required assignment and prepared to discuss and/or write about the issues raised by the readings.* It is also your responsibility to remain abreast of current events in American politics, especially as they apply to political parties. If you want to receive an A for participation, you need to 1) have excellent attendance; 2) contribute regularly to class discussions, and; 3) demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings and current events, especially during in-class writing assignments.

Paper Assignments

Assignment #1: Party Identification Genogram and Autobiography

Create a genogram of your party identification. That is, make a diagram which indicates your partisanship as well as the party identification of as many of your relatives as you can find out. Write a short paper discussing your genogram and *critically assessing* your own party identification. Some questions you may address include: What patterns are evident? Why do you think you have your particular partisanship? How has your family influenced your party identification? What other factors have influenced your partisanship? What role do demographic factors related to partisanship seem to play for you and your family? You are responsible for the complete details of the paper assignment at:

<http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/paper1.htm> 5 pages maximum. **Due on February 20.**

Assignment #2: Seminar paper: Parties and Public Policy

Choose a policy area or policy proposal that has been a matter of political debate since 2010. Discuss the role of Parties in shaping the nature of the policy/proposal and its success or failure in becoming law. *Briefly* describe the policy, key issues at stake, and, if appropriate, how the parties have evolved on the matter. How have the attitudes, intensity, and actions of the party in the electorate influenced this matter? *In sum, how has the nature and process of this policy been shaped by the contemporary context of American political parties.* The paper should be analytical and should rely extensively on outside research. You are responsible for the complete details of the paper assignment at:

<http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/paper2.htm>. 15 pages maximum. **Due on April 14** (outline due March 19).

General Information: Policies regarding all paper assignments can be found at <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/PaperGuidelines.htm>. *You are expected to read these guidelines before submitting your paper.*

Late Policy

It is expected that exams will be taken and assignments turned in when they are scheduled on the syllabus. There will be a 20-point penalty for failure to take an exam at the required time and a 1/3 letter grade per day penalty for written assignments. If you miss an exam, the re-scheduling must take place at the convenience of the instructor. Written assignments are due at the *beginning* of class. To avoid penalties, you need to let the instructor know of valid, exigent circumstances *before* the assigned time.

Course Webpage

The webpage for this course is located at <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/>. This webpage is an important resource for this class. It will contain archived lecture outlines, important links to additional resources for the paper assignments, and important class announcements.

Class Email list

On occasion, announcements will be made through email messages. It is your responsibility to see to it that you receive email from the account on file with the registrar and supplied to me.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete their assignments with due regard to academic integrity. In order to do so they should familiarize themselves with the relevant sections of the student code of conduct (Sections 7-13). By signing all work submitted on paper, or by identifying themselves in work submitted electronically, students affirm that they neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. Collaboration on assignments among students may only occur when explicitly authorized by an instructor.

Disability

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. NCSU policy at: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

January 7	Class Introduction
January 9 – 14	Political Parties: An Introduction Hershey, chapter 1 Klein, “How politics makes us stupid”* Drutman, “America Is Now the Divided Republic the Framers Feared”* Drutman, “We need political parties...”* Kuo, “The Paradox of Party Polarization”*
January 16	The Structure of Party Systems Hershey, chapter 2 Taub, “The U.K. Election Explained, in One Number”* Matthews, “3 reasons why New Zealand has the best-designed”*
January 21 – 30	Parties in the Electoral Arena Hershey, intro to part IV, chapters 9-10 Gelman and Azari, “19 Things We Learned from the 2016 Election”* Bernstein, “Should we scrap the primaries?”* Rauch and La Raja, “Too Much Democracy Is Bad for Democracy”*
February 4 – 6	Party Identification of the American Electorate Hershey, chapters 6 & 7 Edsall, “What Motivates Voters More Than Loyalty? Loathing”* Edsall, “Donald Trump’s Identity Politics”* Chinoy, “Quiz: Let Us Predict Whether You’re a Democrat or a Republican”* Klein, “Why did the 2016 election look so much like the 2012 election?”* Vox, “How the Republican Party went from Lincoln to Trump”* Vox, “From white supremacy to Barack Obama...”*

February 11	<p>Political Party Polarization Edsall, “The Deepening ‘Racialization’ of American Politics”* Mounk, “The Rise of McPolitics”* Prokop, “6 charts that explain why American politics is so broken”* Coppins, “The Man Who Broke Politics”^ Pew, “The Partisan Divide on Political Values...”^</p>
February 13	<p>The Changing Face of Party Organizations Hershey, Part II</p>
February 18	<p>Guest Speaker: Party Organizations, Wayne Goodwin</p>
February 20 – 25	<p>The Tangled Web of Campaign Finance Hershey, chapter 12 Matthews, “The great money-in-politics myth”* Edsall, “After Citizens United, a Vicious Cycle of Corruption”* Edsall, “The Changing Shape of the Parties Is Changing Where...”* LaRaja and Shaffner, “Want to reform campaign finance and reduce....”* Drutman, “Giving the two parties even more money will not solve polarization”* <i>Paper #1 Due February 20</i></p>
February 27	<p>Guest Speaker: Parties and Elections, John Sides</p>
March 3	<p>Third parties Hershey, chapter 2 Rosenstone, et al. A Theory of Third-Party Voting”* Skelly, “America Isn’t Really Set Up For Third-Party Presidential Bids”* Drutman, “How much longer can the two-party system hold?”*</p>
March 5	<p>MIDTERM EXAM</p>
March 10 – 12	<p>Spring Break</p>
March 17 – 19	<p>Political Parties in the Legislature Hershey, Intro to part V, chapters 13 and 15 Mann and Ornstein, “The Republicans waged a 3-decade war on government...”* Dionne et al., “How the GOP Prompted the Decay of Political Norms”* Sides, “Don’t blame our polarized politics on voters...”* <i>Paper #2 Outline due March 19</i></p>
March 24	<p>Guest speaker: Parties in Government, Jay Chaudhuri</p>
March 26	<p>Parties in Executive/Judicial Hershey, chapter 14 Drutman “There is no separation of powers without divided government”* Ellis, “The Supreme Court Was Never Meant to Be Political”*</p>
March 31 – April 2	<p>Book Club Part I Drutman, parts I and II</p>

April 7	Book Club Part II Drutman, part III
April 9	Spring Holiday: No class
April 14	Political Parties & Interest Groups Berry, "The Party Connection"* <i>Paper #2 Due</i>
April 21 – 23	The Future of Political Parties in America Hershey, chapter 16 Brady and Cain, "Are Our Parties Realigning?"* Teles and Saldin, "The Future Is Faction"*
May 5, 1:00	Final Exam