

**POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS**  
**PSCI 4100**  
**University of North Texas • Spring 2014**

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 3:30-5:00pm or by appointment in 136 WH

**Course Description**

The study of political parties and elections is one of the most exciting fields in political science. In this course, we'll look at the formation, evolution, and role political parties play in society. We'll explore party strategy, party and electoral systems. We'll take a comparative approach and explore political parties primarily in advanced industrial democracies, though we will draw examples from developing countries as well. The readings and discussions will challenge you think about how and why political parties, party systems, and electoral systems differ (or are the same) across countries. Through readings, discussions, and written work, you will have a thorough understanding of political parties around the world. PSCI 3600 is strongly recommended as pre-requisite for this class.

**Course Materials**

The required readings for the course include 2 books and articles and chapters available on Blackboard (and as an on-demand coursepack if there is interest) denoted as [BB] below. The two books have been ordered by the UNT Bookstore and are also available on-line. If you choose to purchase the books on-line, be sure to buy the right editions.

- David Farrell. 2011. *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg. 2000. *Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

I encourage you to stay on top of election results and party developments throughout the semester. In our discussions and on quizzes, I'll draw on current events and I'd like you to be able to do the same. You may choose which publication you'd like to read, but I'd recommend you select from among *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, BBC, CNN.com, or *The Economist*. I'd also suggest becoming a regular NPR listener.

## Evaluation

Your grade in this course will be comprised of the following. Grades will be calculated on a scale of A-F (89.5-100=A; 79.5-89.4=B; 69.5-79.4=C; 59.5-69.4=D; below 59.5=F).

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%
Party journals (6)	25% (4.2% each)
Research paper	20%
Participation (includes unannounced quizzes)	10%

\*All work will be weighted according to the break-down above. Your final grade will thus be out of 100 possible points.

**1) Exams.** There will be two in-class exams (see below for dates). The exams will be a combination of identifications, short answer, and essay. The midterm will cover all of the material from the first half of the class. The final exam will be cumulative. The midterm will be March 6<sup>th</sup> and the final will be May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**2) Party Journals.** You will choose a party on which to focus during the semester. There will be 6 assignments related to the party during the semester.

**3) Research Paper.** You will write a 5-6 page paper on your chosen party which expands on one of the assignments. The paper will be due April 24<sup>th</sup>. Details TBA.

**4) Participation.** I want to hear from you during the semester. Come to class prepared to participate and ask questions. There will be unannounced quizzes from time to time as well.

## Class Policies

**Attendance.** You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. After this, I will deduct 2 pts. off of your final grade for each additional absence. Remember that your final grade is out of 100 points. If you come in to class MORE THAN 10 minutes late, I will count this as an absence. If you know you will be missing class beyond the 3 allowed, please provide me with documentation as soon as you can, and I will consider whether to count these as excused absences. Should you miss class for a medical emergency, you will need to provide documentation from your medical provider.

**In-Class Expectations.** You are required to come to class prepared and to participate in discussions. Many of the readings are challenging, so be sure to come to class having read them carefully. You will not do well in the course if you attend class, but do not complete the readings. Likewise, if you complete the readings, but do not come to class, you are also not

likely to do well. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the readings and will not just review them. When you're in class, I expect you to be fully engaged. This means no texting, Facebook, Twitter, surfing the web, etc. You may use your laptop, but if you are using it for something other than taking notes, I may not allow you to continue using it. If you plan to come to class to do something else, I suggest that you not come.

**Email.** Please make sure you check your **UNT email** regularly. I will send email messages to the class periodically and will use your official UNT email address. If you want to contact me, please use my UNT address above and do not email me through BB.

**Blackboard Learn.** All materials handed out in lecture will be posted here (syllabus, in-class worksheets, assignments, etc.) I will also post announcements, links, graphs/tables shown in class, and other useful information. So, check BB often!

**Extensions and Alternate Dates.** In general, I will not allow extensions on assignments or alternate exam dates. However, should you find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to turn an assignment in on-time or be present for an exam, please advise me of this as soon as you can, and not the day the assignment is due or the day of the exam or afterwards. We will work together to come up with a solution.

**Late policy.** A late assignment will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late. After 1 week, I will no longer accept it.

**Grade Appeals.** Should you want to appeal a grade you've received, it must be in writing. You will need to explain why you believe you deserve a grade that is different than the one you received.

**Other.** Should you need any special accommodations, please let me know ASAP.

## Syllabus

### **Introduction and Preliminaries (Jan. 14)**

No readings.

### **What Are Political Parties and What Do They Do? (Jan. 16)**

James Madison, *Federalist 10*. [BB]

Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg. 2000. "Unthinkable Democracy: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. In *Parties without Partisans*, Dalton and Wattenberg, eds. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 5-10. [BB]

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Pgs. 24-31. [BB]

Joseph Schlesinger. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization." *The Journal of Politics*. 46: 369-400. [BB]

### **Where Do Parties Come From? Party Formation and Development (Jan. 21 & 23)**

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1990. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments." In *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 91-138. [BB]

Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins. Ch. 8. [BB]

John Aldrich. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: Chicago UP. Ch. 1. [BB]

**\*Required Party Journal 1 due Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### **How are Parties Organized (and why does it matter)? (Jan. 28 & 30)**

Maurice Duverger. 1990. "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties" in *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 37-45. [BB]

Otto Kirchheimer. 1990. "The Catch-All Party" in *The West European Party System*, Peter Mair, ed. New York: Oxford UP. Pgs. 50-60. [BB]

Richard Katz and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." *Party Politics*. 1.1: 5-28. [BB]

**\*Extra Credit Party Journal 1 due Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **One, Two, Three, or More? Party Systems and Number of Parties (Feb. 4 & 6)**

Peter Mair. 2002. "Comparing Party Systems" in *Comparing Democracies 2*. Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi, and Pippa Norris, eds. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Pgs. 88-107. [BB]

Steven Rosenstone, Roy Behr, Edward Lazarus. 1996. *Third Parties in America*. Princeton: Princeton UP. Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9. [BB]

"Sunday Dialogue: Two Parties or More?" *New York Times*. Dec. 14, 2013. [BB]

**\*Required Party Journal 2 due Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **New Cleavages, New Issues—New Parties? (Feb. 11 & 13)**

Robert Rohrschneider. 1993. "New Parties versus Old Left Realignments: Environmental Attitudes, Party Policies, and Partisan Affiliations in Four West European Countries." *The Journal of Politics*. 55.3: 682-701. [BB]

Piero Ignazi. 1992. "The Silent Counter-Revolution: Hypotheses on the Emergence of Extreme Right-Wing Parties in Europe." *European Journal of Political Research*. 22: 3-34. [BB]

"Europe's Populist Insurgents: Turning Right." *The Economist*. Jan. 4, 2014. [BB]

Roberta Rice and Donna Lee Van Cott. "The Emergence and Formation of Ethnic Parties in Latin America: A Sub-national Statistical Analysis." *Comparative Political Studies*. 40.6: 709-732. [BB]

**\*Extra Credit Party Journal 2 due Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Electoral Systems 1: What's in a Rule? (Feb. 18 & 20)**

Farrell, ch. 1-6

### **Electoral Systems 2: Why Do They Matter? (Feb. 25 & 27)**

Farrell, ch. 7 & 10

Octavio Amorim Neto and Gary Cox. 1997. "Electoral Institutions, Cleavage Structures, and the Number of Parties." *American Journal of Political Science*. 41.1: 149-174. [BB]

**\*Required Party Journal 3 due Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Electoral Systems 3: Changing the Rules of the Game (Mar. 4)**

Farrell, ch. 8 & 9

Case Study: Electoral Reform in the United Kingdom:

<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=55> [BB]

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/election\\_2010/8644480.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/election_2010/8644480.stm) [BB]

Yes/No to AV Campaign Ads [BB]

Matt Qvortrup. 2012. "Voting on Electoral Reform: A Comparative Perspective on the Alternative Vote Referendum in the United Kingdom." *The Political Quarterly*. 83.1: 108-116. [BB]

**\*\*Midterm—Mar. 6\*\***

**Spring Break—Mar. 11 & 13**

**Policy, Office, or Votes? Party Strategy and Party Change (Mar. 18 & 20)**

Kaare Strøm and Wolfgang Müller. 1999. "Political Parties and Hard Choices." In *Policy, Office, Or Votes?: How Political Parties in Western Europe Make Hard Decisions*, Müller and Strøm, eds. New York: Cambridge UP. Pgs. 1-27. [BB]

Meguid, Bonnie. 2005. "Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review*. 99.3: 347-359. [BB]

Jae-Jae Spoon. 2011. *Political Survival of Small Parties in Europe*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. Ch. 2 [BB]

**Party Positions: What Issues Matter and Why? (Mar. 25 & 27)**

Budge, Ian and Dennis Farlie. 1983. *Explaining and Predicting Elections: Issue Effects and Party Strategies in Twenty-Three Democracies*. London: George Allen & Unwin. Ch. 2. [BB]

Adams, James, Andrea B. Haupt, and Heather Stoll. 2009. "What Moves Parties? The Role of Public Opinion and Global Economic Conditions in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies*. 42.5: 611-639. [BB]

Exploring Party Positions: Manifestos and Expert Surveys:

Kenneth Benoit and Nina Weiseshomeier. 2009. "Presidents, Parties, and Policy Competition." *The Journal of Politics*. 71.4: 1435-1447. Appendix. [BB]

Kenneth Benoit and Michael Laver. 2006. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. New York: Routledge. Methodological Appendix—Pgs. 221-238 and Country Data—Pgs. 243-268. [BB]

Hans-Dieter Klingemann, et al. 2001. *Mapping Policy Preferences II*. New York: Oxford UP. Appendix I. Pgs. 150-163. [BB]

**\*Required Party Journal 4 due March 27<sup>th</sup>**

## **Do Parties Matter? Assessing Parties' Roles in Democracies**

### **Party in the Electorate 1: Partisanship and Dealignment (Apr. 1)**

*Parties without Partisans*, chapters 2-4

**\*\*No class Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>—Prof. Spoon at Political Science conference\*\***

### **Parties as Organizations 1: Inside the Party (Apr. 8 & 10)**

*Parties without Partisans*, chapters 5-7

“Lonely at the Top?” *The Economist*. Apr. 4, 2012.

**\*Required Party Journal 5 due April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Extra Credit Party Journal 3 due April 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Parties in Government 1: Government Formation (Apr. 15 & 17)**

Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Berkshire, UK: McGraw Hill. Ch. 12.

Lanny Martin and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. “Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 45.1: 33-50.

**\*Required Party Journal 6 due April 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **Parties in Government 2: Do Parties Matter for Governing? (Apr. 22 & 24)**

*Parties without Partisans*, ch. 9-11

Christian B. Jensen and Jae-Jae Spoon. 2010. “Testing the ‘Party Matters’ Thesis: Explaining Progress Towards Kyoto Protocol Targets.” *Political Studies*. 59: 1-17.

**\*Paper due Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>\***

### **Wrap Up and Review: The Current State of the Political Party (Apr. 29 & May 1)**

*Parties without Partisans*, ch. 12

“Empty Vessels?” *The Economist*. July 24, 1999.

FINAL EXAM WILL BE THURSDAY MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1:30-3:30 PM. FULL EXAM SCHEDULE IS LOCATED AT <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/fall/final.html>.

### **Additional Important Information**

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which is located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf).

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Further information can be found at [www.unt.edu/oda/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.html). Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes).