

University of Florida
POS 4443: Political Parties & Elections
Fall 2013
3 Credits

Instructor: Brian Amos
Office: 330 Anderson Hall
Office Hours: M 9:30-10:30, T 12:00-1:00 (and by appointment)

Meeting time: MWF 8:30am
Classroom: Matherly 18
Email: bamos@ufl.edu

Course Description:

In this course, we will consider the theoretical foundation, historical context, and organization and functions of political parties in the United States. We will study the formation and development of the parties and examine the current party system, including theories of party identification in the electorate, the process of nominating candidates, party polarization, and campaign finance. The course is divided into three sections. The first section will begin with an analysis of the theories used to explain party conflict. Throughout the course, we will return to these theories and use them to guide our thinking about party systems throughout history. In the remainder of this section, we will explore how changing ideas about the purpose of political parties and the issues dividing them have influenced their development over time. Tracing the history of political parties in the U.S. will help us to understand the shape parties have taken today. The second section will serve as an introduction to political parties in the U.S. We will break down the party system into its three components (*party organizations*, *parties in the electorate*, and *parties in government*) and discuss the roles that parties play in national, state, and local politics. The final section will address the topic of party polarization, including its causes and consequences. Throughout the course, identifying the patterns and processes of party development which run throughout American history is more important than simply memorizing facts about components of the party system. The goal of the course is to help you understand and think critically about the theoretical foundations and purposes of political parties. Throughout the course, you will be asked to consider the question: Do parties matter?

Course Goals:

By the end of this course, students will:

- (1) demonstrate familiarity with fundamental political, philosophical, religious, economic, and social scientific research and theories.
- (2) be able to express and defend reasoned points of view both orally and in writing.
- (3) evaluate their views relevant to the course with reasons and evidence.

Textbooks

- Schaffner, Brian F. 2012. *Politics, Parties, & Elections in America*, 7th edition. Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-495-89916-X

Other readings will be available under the Resources tab in Sakai.

Assignments & Grading:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Weekly Essays (8 at 5% each)	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Paper	25%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory. If you are planning to miss class (official university activity, religious holiday, jury duty, etc.) please notify me in advance. Excessive absence will result in a warning, followed by removal from the course and a failing grade. I know it's an early class, but please show up on time.

Student participation is expected in the form of discussion of the assigned readings and asking questions. For this to be a successful course, it is imperative that you do the assigned readings *before* class, give yourself time to think about them, and prepare yourself to discuss them in class. Your participation is worth 15% of your final grade. *Please be respectful and polite at all times.* In preparing for class meetings, students should consider the following questions in relation to the assigned readings:

- What are the central issues addressed?
- What is the perspective of the author and what evidence is provided to support his/her argument?
- What is your own point of view? Do you agree/disagree with the points presented?
- How does the literature clarify your understanding of political science?

Because this is an upper-level course, most sessions will be conducted in a seminar style. All students will be expected to participate in a meaningful way during every class session.

Weekly Essays

Students are expected to complete eight short essays (500-600 words, ~2 pages) over the course of the semester. Essays will be due Fridays before class on Sakai, and the prompts will relate to that week's readings. No late essays will be accepted, though there will be more than eight prompts given over the semester. Prompts will be announced in class and posted on Sakai a week in advance.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will be a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions, to be held during class on **Friday, October 4th**.

Final Paper

The final paper will be 7-8 pages long and due **Monday, December 9th** by 11:59pm on Sakai. Paper prompts will be distributed in late October or early November. Each day late will result in a penalty of a full letter grade.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Grading Scale:

A	100 – 93	C+	79 – 77	F	59 – 0
A-	92 – 90	C	76 – 73		
B+	89 – 87	C-	72 – 70		
B	86 – 83	D+	69 – 67		
B-	82 – 80	D	66 – 60		

Course Calendar

Week 1: W 8/21-F 8/23

Parties and Politics in America: An Overview

W Aug 21 Course introduction, no readings

F Aug 23 Schaffner: Chapter 1

Section I: The Origins and Development of the Party System

Week 2: MWF 8/26-8/30

Party Systems and Realignment Theory

M Aug 26 Schaffner: Ch. 2 (pp. 17-31 only)

Mayhew: Ch. 2

Carmines and Stimson (1989), “On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution,” (pp. 901-909)

Theories of Party Conflict

W Aug 28 Schattschneider: Ch. 1

F Aug 30 Schattschneider: Ch. 4
Weekly Essay 1 Due

Week 3: MWF 9/2-9/6

M Sep 2 NO CLASS, Labor Day

Changing Conceptions of Parties

W Sep 4 Hofstadter: Preface & Ch. 1

The First Party System

F Sep 6 Beeman, “Republicanism and the First Party System”

Weekly Essay 2 Due

Week 4: MWF 9/9-9/13

Jacksonian Democracy and the Second Party System

M Sep 9 Shade, “The Jacksonian Party System”

The Demise of the Whigs and the Rise of the GOP

W Sep 11 Gienapp, "Formation of the Republican Party"

Populism and Progressivism

F Sep 13 McSeveney, "The Fourth Party System and Progressive Politics"
Schattschneider, Ch. 5
Weekly Essay 3 Due

Week 5: MWF 9/16-9/20

New Deal Politics and the Remaking of the Democrats

M Sep 16 Milkis, "Whose Party is it?"

The Civil Rights Movement and the Southern Realignment

W Sep 18 Noel (2011), "The Coalition Merchants: The Ideological Roots of the Civil Rights Realignment"

The New Right, 1980-Today

F Sep 20 Hayes and McKee, "Toward a One-Party South?"
Weekly Essay 4 Due

Week 6: MWF 9/23-9/27

The Role of Race in American Party Politics

MW Sep 23/25 No readings
"Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story"

Review and Assessment of Realignment Theory

F Sep 27 No readings
Weekly Essay 5 Due

Week 7: MWF 9/30-10/4

The United States: A 2-Party System

M Sep 30 Schaffner: Ch. 2 (pp. 32-47)
Benoit, "Duverger's Law and the Study of Electoral Systems"

Third Parties in the U.S.

W Oct 2 Abramson et al., "Third-party and independent candidates in American politics: Wallace, Anderson, and Perot"
Friedman, "Make Way for the Radical Center"
(<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/24/opinion/sunday/24friedman.html>)

MIDTERM EXAM

F Oct 4 **Midterm Exam**

Section II: The Parties Today

Party Organizations

Week 8: MWF 10/7-10/11

Characteristics of the American Party System

M Oct 7 Schaffner: Ch. 3

Party Organizations

W Oct 9 Schaffner: Ch. 4

Parties as Networks and Party Activists

F Oct 11 Koger et al. 2009, "Partisan Webs: Information Exchange and Party Networks"

Heaney & Rojas 2007, "Partisans, Nonpartisans, and the Antiwar Movement in the United States"

Weekly Essay 6 Due

Parties, Nominations, and Elections

Week 9: MWF 10/14-10/18

Nominations for State & Congressional Offices

M Oct 14 Schaffner: Ch. 5

Presidential Nominating Politics

W Oct 16 Schaffner: Ch. 6

The Electoral College

F Oct 18 Schaffner: Ch. 8 (pp. 240-269)

Weekly Essay 7 Due

Week 10: MWF 10/21-10/25

Campaign Strategies

M Oct 21 Gerber and Green, "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: a Field Experiment."

W Oct 23 Craig and Rippere, "Attack and Response in Political Campaigns: An Experimental Study"

Redistricting

F Oct 25 Cox and Katz: Ch. 2

Weekly Essay 8 Due

Week 11: MWF 10/28-11/1

M Oct 28 Cox and Katz: Ch. 3

The Party in Government

Campaign Finance

W Oct 30 Schaffner: Ch. 8 (pp. 221-240)

Executive & the Courts

F Nov 1 Schaffner: Ch. 9 (pp. 273-290)

Weekly Essay 9 Due

Week 12: MWF 11/4-11/8

The Parties in Congress, pt. 1

M Nov 4 Schaffner: Ch. 9 (pp. 291-312)

The Parties in Congress, pt. 2

W Nov 6 TBA

F Nov 8 NO CLASS, Homecoming

The Party in the Electorate

Week 13: MWF 11/11-11/15

M Nov 11 NO CLASS, Veterans Day

Political Parties and the Voters

W Nov 13 Schaffner: Ch. 7

Party Identification: The Michigan School and Retrospective Voting

F Nov 15 Kuechler 2001, "Voting Behavior"

Green, Palmquist, and Schickler: Ch. 1 & Ch. 2

Fiorina: Preface, Ch. 1, & Ch. 10

Weekly Essay 10 Due

Week 14: MWF 11/18-11/22

Current Party Divisions and Partisan Identities

M Nov 18 Keeter, "The Aging of the Boomers and the Rise of the Millennials"

Party Polarization: Causes & Explanations

W Nov 20 McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal

Party Polarization: Solutions (?)

F Nov 22 TBA

Weekly Essay 11 Due

Week 15: MWF 11/24-12/4

What is the Future of the American Party System?

M Nov 24 Schaffner: Ch. 10

W Nov 26 and 28 NO CLASS, Thanksgiving

M Dec 2 TBA

Course Conclusion

W Dec 4 no readings

December 9th: Final papers due