

Political Parties and Elections

Prof. Michael McDonald

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Office Hours

MW 10am-11am or by appointment

Introduction

Welcome to Political Parties and Elections. The course examines political parties, which are the primary political organizations that put candidates before the voters and organize deliberations within political institutions. They are mentioned nowhere in the United States constitution. In his farewell address, George Washington expressed his opposition to political parties shared by many of the Founding Fathers: "...the common & continual mischiefs of the spirit of Party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise People to discourage and restrain it." Yet, even in his cabinet, the growing animosity between long-time friends John Adams and Thomas Jefferson would soon develop into the first national political parties. Parties thus play important functions in the American democracy, then and today.

The goal of this class is to understand the function and organization of political parties. There are three parts to this course that correspond to the three aspects of political parties:

- Parties as organizations unto themselves: how are they organized locally and nationally? Who actively joins political parties?
- Parties in the electorate: how do voters use political parties to orient themselves? As we cover this topic, we will also explore elections in greater depth, covering such topics as who votes, how voters make their decisions, and how campaigns and parties mobilize young voters.
- Parties in government: what role do parties play in Congress, the presidency, and the courts?

Readings

- Hershey, Majorie R. 2007. *Party Politics in America, 12th Edition*. New York: Pearson Education Inc.
- Additional readings are available on Canvass.

The readings that will be discussed each class are listed below as a Reading Assignment for that day of class.

Attendance Policy

If you do not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which you are registered, and you have not contacted the department to indicate your intent, you can be dropped from the course. You must not assume that you will be dropped, however. The department will notify you if you have been dropped from a course or laboratory. You can request reinstatement on a space-available basis if you present documented evidence.

The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory (which is the case for this class). After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Grades

Grades consist of a midterm, a final, a paper, a campaign assignment, a redistricting assignment, and classroom participation. The weighting of the aspects of the grade are:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>% of Overall Grade</u>
Campaign Targeting Project	Feb 17	10%
Midterm 1	Feb 19	25%
Redistricting Game	Feb 24	5%
Midterm 2	Mar 25	25%
Polling Analysis	Apr 1	5%
Final Exam (Group 29A)	Apr 29	25%
Participation		5%

Participation

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Participation will be determined through class discussion and pop quizzes. As a part of class discussion, the professor may randomly call on students to answer questions on the day's assigned reading. A correct answer will factor positively, a wrong answer or lack of answer will factor negatively. The class may be called upon to complete a pop quiz on the day's reading.

Campaign Targeting Plan (Due Oct. 8)

You will develop a campaign plan for a major party candidate to a state legislative district. Each group will be assigned a unique district to profile and develop a priority targeting list of precincts to walk and GOTV. While you can develop the targeting plan for a fictional major party candidate, the elements of the targeting plan should be only dependent on the candidate's party.

Redistricting Project (Due: Oct 13)

You will play the on-line educational game about redistricting at: <http://www.redistrictinggame.org/> and print a screenshot to prove that you successfully completed the game.

Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Basically, don't cheat. You cheat yourself of your education and more severe punishment may follow. Helping someone else is cheating, too. If you have any questions if your approach to completing an assignment may violate the honor code, please contact the instructor for guidance.

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

My exams tend to have an essay component. If you are eligible for disability services and your disability leads you to need more time taking an exam, please take advantage of disability services. We cannot undo poor performance on an exam if you did not make disability arrangements in advance.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

<p>Week 1 Jan 6 & 8</p>	<p>Wed: Welcome! What are Political Parties? <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 1. • George Washington's Farwell Address <p>Fri: America's Two-Party System <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 2. • Theresa Amato and Ralph Nader. 2001 "So You Want to Run for President? Ha! Barriers to Third Party Entry," <i>National Civic Review</i> 90(2): 163-172. • John F. Bibby 2002. "In Defense of the Two-Party System." in <i>Multiparty Politics in America</i> (Rowman and Littlefield).
<p>Week 2 Jan 11, 13 & 15</p>	<p>Mon: America's Two-Party System, Con't Wed: State and Local Party Organizations <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 3 <p>Fri: Party Machines <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Royko. <i>Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago</i>. (The Penguin Group, 1971) Chpt 1.
<p>Week 3 Jan 20 & 22</p>	<p>Wed: National Party Organizations <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 4. <p>Fri: Party Activists <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 5
<p>Week 4 Jan 25, 27 & 29</p>	<p>Mon: Party Activists, Con't <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Keeter, Cary Frank, and Courtney Kennedy. "Deaniacs and Democrats: Howard Dean's Campaign Activists." in <i>The State of the Political Parties, 5th Edition</i> (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007). • Alan Abramowitz. "The Polarized Public and the Rise of the Tea Party Movement." (Pearson Education, 2013). <p>Wed: Party Identification <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 6 <p>Fri: Party Coalitions and Realignment Elections <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 7
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Mon: Party Coalitions and Realignment Elections,</p>

<p>Feb 1, 3 & 5</p>	<p>Con't Wed: Who Votes? <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hershey. Chpt 8. <p>Fri: Mobilizing Voters <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel Bradshaw. "Who Will Vote for You and Why: Designing Campaign Strategy and Message." in <i>Campaigns and Elections American Style</i> (Westview Press, 2004). <p><u>Homework Assignment (Due Feb 17)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign Targeting Plan
<p>Week 6 Feb 8, 10 & 12</p>	<p>Mon: Mobilizing Young Voters <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Smith and Ivan Frishberg. "Mobilizing the Youth Vote in 2004 and Beyond." in <i>Fountain of Youth: Strategies and Tactics for Mobilizing America's Young Voters</i> (Westview Press, 2007). Michael Hoover and Susan Orr. "Youth Political Engagement: Why Rock the Vote Hits the Wrong Note." in <i>Fountain of Youth: Strategies and Tactics for Mobilizing America's Young Voters</i> (Westview Press, 2007). <p>Wed: The Role of Social Media <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bond, Fariss, Jones, Kramer, Marlow, Settle, and Fowler. 2012 "A 61-Million-Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization." <i>Nature</i>. <p>Fri: Redistricting <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David L. Leal. "Minority Voters and Candidates: Tracking Trends." In <i>Campaigns and Elections: Issues, Concepts, and Cases</i> (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003). Micah Altman and Michael McDonald. 2014. "Redistricting in the Sunshine State"
<p>Week 7 Feb 15, 17 & 19</p>	<p>Mon: Redistricting Con't <u>Homework Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Redistricting Game (Due Feb 24) <p>Wed: Election Law <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Lowenstein, Richard Hasen, and Daniel Tokaji. "Election Laws: Cases and Materials." Chpt 2.

	Fri: MIDTERM 1
Week 8 Feb 22, 24 & 26	<p>Mon: Nominating Candidates <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 9. <p>Wed: Nominating Presidential Candidates <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 10. <p>Fri: Nominating Presidential Candidates, Con't</p>
Week 9 Spring Break	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 Mar 7, 9 & 11	<p>Mon: Campaign Strategy <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 11. <p>Wed: Campaign Strategy, Con't <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional and State Legislative Elections." in <i>Multiparty Politics in America</i> (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). <p>Fri: Campaign Strategy, Con't</p>
Week 11 Mar 14, 16 & 18	<p>Mon: Campaign Political Communication Strategy <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Trent and Robert Friedenber. <i>Political Campaign Communication, 5th Edition</i>. Chpt 3. <p>Wed: Campaign Finance <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hershey. Chpt 12. • Norman Cummings and Grace Cummings. "Strategy and Tactics for Campaign Fundraising" in <i>Campaigns and Elections American Style</i>. <p>Fri: Polling <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Medvic. "Campaign Pollsters and Polling: Manipulating the Voter or Taking the Electorate's Pulse?" in <i>Campaigns and Elections: Issues, Concepts, and Cases</i> (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003).
Week 12 Mar 21, 23 & 25	<p>Mon: Polling, Con't <u>Homework Assignment (Due Apr 1)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling Analysis <p>Wed: Campaign Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonard Steinhorn. "Ads Are Us: Political Advertising in a Mass Media Culture." in <i>Campaigns and Elections American Style</i>.

	Fri: MIDTERM 2
Week 13 Mar 28, 30 & Apr 1	<p>Mon: Legislative Parties <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hershey. Chpt 13 <p>Wed: Legislative Parties, Con't Fri: Congressional Leadership <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger Davidson and Walter Oleszek. <i>Congress and Its Members, 10th Edition</i>. Chpt 6. (CQ Press 2006).
Week 14 Apr 4, 6 & 8	<p>Mon: Congressional Committees <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger Davidson, Walter Oleszek, Francis Lee and Eric Schickler. <i>Congress and Its Members, 14th Edition</i>. Chpt 7. (CQ Press 2006). <p>Wed: Congressional Committees, Con't Fri: TBA</p>
Week 15 Apr 11, 13 & 15	<p>Mon: Party in Government <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aldrich, John H. and David W. Rhode. 2001. "The Logic of Conditional Party Government: Revisiting the Electoral Connection." In <i>Congress Reconsidered, 7th Edition</i>. <p>Wed: The Executive and the Courts <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hershey. Chpt 14 Richard Skinner. "The Partisan Presidency" in <i>The State of the Political Parties, 6th Edition</i> (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007) <p>Fri: The Executive and the Courts, Con't</p>
Week 16 Apr 18 & 20	<p>Mon: The Future of Parties in the United States <u>Reading Assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hershey. Chpt 15, 16 <p>Wed: The Future of Parties in the United States, Con't</p>
Week 17 Apr 29	Thurs: FINAL @ 7:30am-9:30am