Anderson 101

Thurs 12:50pm-1:40pm

Political Parties and Elections

Prof. Michael McDonald

<u>Contact Info</u> <u>Office Hours</u>

Office: Anderson 222 Wed 9:00-11:30am or by appointment

E-mail: michael.mcdonald@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-273-2371

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. Parties 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.

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 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?

If you're reading this syllabus, congratulations! Those three bolded aspects of political parties will likely be an exam question.

Readings

- Hershey, Majorie R. 2021. *Party Politics in America, 18th Edition.* New York: Pearson Education Inc.
- Additional readings are available on Canvas.

The readings that will be discussed each class are listed below as a <u>Reading Assignment</u> 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 not 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. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

The policy for this class is that every student should make the best attempt to attend all classes. A student that misses four or more classes without a university-approved excuse (e.g., from the Dean's office, sports department or other university official) will have their overall grade reduced a letter step. Students do not need, and should not approach the professor, to provide non-university-approved excuses for missing three or fewer classes. A student with ten or more unexcused class absences will receive a failing grade for the entire course and will be barred from attending further classes.

If there is an issue that affects your ability to attend class, please let the professor know as soon as possible. Accommodations can be made if we devise a plan together as soon as a problem occurs.

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>	% of Overall Grade
Homework		
Polling Analysis	Feb 28	10%
Campaign Targeting Project	Mar 9	10%
Midterm 1	Feb 21	20%
Midterm 2	Mar 28	25%
Final Exam	May 4	25%

Homework Assignments

Campaign Targeting Plan

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

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.

Polling Analysis

You will be assigned a 2016 general election exit poll from a state and conduct an analysis of the data, with respect to the Clinton and Trump electoral coalitions.

Technology Use Policy

Studies find that students who use laptops or cell phones in class tend to receive lower grades that their peers.

Laptops, cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are banned from the classroom, unless the professor explicitly states otherwise as some class assignments will use technology.

A first offense earns a warning. A second offense results in letter grade reduction of the overall class grade, and a third offense results in an automatic failing grade for the course.

Students with disabilities who present documentation to the professor are permitted to use laptops for note taking. Other students who wish to use laptops for notetaking must receive permission from the professor. An approval effectively serves as a warning. Any student with an approved laptop will receive a letter grade reduction for the first offense of doing anything non-class related on their laptop in class, and a failing grade for the second offense.

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/.

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Tues: National Party Organizations	
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Tues: Party Coalitions and Realigning Elections	
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	Political Engagement: Why Rock the Vote Hits the Wrong Note." in Fountain of Youth: Strategies and Tactics for Mobilizing America's Young Voters. • Bond, Fariss, Jones, Kramer, Marlow, Settle, and Fowler. 2012 "A 61-Million-Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization." Nature.		
Week 7	Tues: MIDTERM 1		
Feb 21 & 23	Thurs: Targeting Voters		
	Reading Assignment		
	Joel Bradshaw. "Who Will Vote for You and Why:		
	Designing Campaign Strategy and Message." in		
	Campaigns and Elections American Style (Westview		
	Press, 2004).		
	Homework Assignment (Due Mar 9)		
	Campaign Targeting Plan		
Week 8	Tues: Nominating Candidates		
Feb 28 & Mar 2	Reading Assignment		
	Hershey. Chpt 9 Thurs: Nominating Presidential Candidates		
	Reading Assignment		
	Hershey. Chpt 10		
Week 9	Tues: Campaign Strategy		
Mar 7 & 9	Reading Assignment		
	Hershey. Chpt 11		
	Thurs: Campaign Strategy, Con't		
Week 10 Mar 14 & 16	Spring Break		
Week 11	Tues: Campaign Finance		
Mar 21 & 23	Reading Assignment		
	Hershey. Chpt 12.		
	Norman Cummings and Grace Cummings.		
	"Strategy and Tactics for Campaign Fundraising" in		
	Campaigns and Elections American Style		
	Thurs: More Campaign Finance		
	Thurs: More Campaign Finance • Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against		
	 Thurs: More Campaign Finance Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional 		
	Thurs: More Campaign Finance • Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against		
Week 12	 Thurs: More Campaign Finance Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional and State Legislative Elections." in Multiparty 		
Week 12 Mar 28 & 30	 Thurs: More Campaign Finance Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional and State Legislative Elections." in Multiparty Politics in America (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). Tues: MIDTERM 2 		
	 Thurs: More Campaign Finance Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional and State Legislative Elections." in Multiparty Politics in America (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). Tues: MIDTERM 2 Thurs: Legislative Parties 		
	 Thurs: More Campaign Finance Peter Francia and Paul Herrnson. "Running Against the Odds: Minor-Party Campaigns in Congressional and State Legislative Elections." in Multiparty Politics in America (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). Tues: MIDTERM 2 		

Week 13 Apr 4 & 6	Tues: Legislative Parties, Con't Thurs: Party in Government Reading Assignment • Aldrich, John H. and David W. Rhode. 2001. "The Logic of Conditional Party Government: Revisiting the Electoral Connection." In Congress
Week 14 Apr 11 & 13	Reconsidered, 7 th Edition. Tues: Congressional Leadership Reading Assignment Davidson, Oleszek, Lee, Schickler, and Curry. Congress and Its Members, 18 th Edition. Chpt 6. (CQ Press 2022).
Week 15	Thurs: Congressional Leadership Continued Tues: Congressional Committees
Apr 18 & 20	 Reading Assignment Roger Davidson, Walter Oleszek, Francis Lee and Eric Schickler. Congress and Its Members, 18th Edition. Chpt 7. (CQ Press 2022). Thurs: The Executive and the Courts Reading Assignment Hershey. Chpt 14 Richard Skinner. "The Partisan Presidency" in The State of the Political Parties, 6th Edition (Rowman)
Wook 16	and Littlefield, 2007)
Week 16 Apr 25	Tues: The Future of Parties in the United States Reading Assignment Hershey. Chpt 15, 16
Week 17 May 4	Thurs: FINAL @ 10am-12:00 pm