

Political Parties

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Office Hours

Wed 9am-11:30am

Introduction

Welcome to Political Parties. This course examines American 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. Parties thus play important functions in American democracy, then and today.

This is an exciting time for scholars interested in parties. Much of the prior literature assumes modern parties to be static, or slow to change. The upheavals we are observing challenges many existing theories, which provides an opportunity for old theories to be revised and new theories to emerge.

Questions that will be addressed in this class include:

- What are political parties and where do they come from?
- How do parties organize themselves?
- How do voters develop partisan identities?
- How do people use party to make voting choices?
- How do parties organize themselves in the legislatures?
- What is the effect of parties on policy making?

Readings

There are a number of readings for the class, many of which can be found on the class Canvas website. Please contact the professor if you cannot access the folder.

Often authors will publish key pieces of books as journal articles or edited volume book chapters. I have attempted to assign these readings where I can to reduce your costs, although I recommend reading the books to prepare for comprehensive exams. There are some books, however, that are required for the class. These are:

- Aldrich, John. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*.
- Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes. 1960. *The American voter*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Morris P. Fiorina, Samuel J. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope. 2010. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America, 3rd Edition*.
- Alan I. Abramowitz. 2013. *The Polarized Public: Why American Government Is So Dysfunctional*.

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 three components: article reviews; class participation; and a term paper or final exam. The weighting of the aspects of the grade are:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>% of Overall Grade</u>
Class Participation		20%
Final Exam	May 3	80%

Class Participation (30%)

All students are required to participate in the class discussion, even if they are not assigned to summarize a reading and leading the discussion. Class participation may include in-class assignments. Class participation grades will primarily come from reviews of assigned readings, the number to-be-determined by the number of students in the class. You are responsible for all readings, even if not assigned to you.

Final Exams (70%)

You will be given a final exam. No collaboration is allowed and will be considered an honor code violation, although you may consult other students' reviews. If you have any questions about the degree of collaboration, please ask the professor first before proceeding. These exams will consist of a to-be-determined number of essay questions similar to questions typically on a comprehensive exam.

Optional: Research Paper (70%)

It is customary for students seeking a PhD or writing a masters' thesis to write a research paper in a graduate seminar class. You may choose this option in lieu of the midterm and final papers, but **must first receive approval from the professor**. Expected format for the paper is 30-pages in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1"

margins (the page count includes references/footnotes, but does not include any figures or tables).

Outline of paper deadlines:

- A one or two paragraph description of your topic (Feb. 7) with a bibliography that may include class reading, but must include at least four books and/or articles from outside the class.

Following the submission of your paper description, the professor will provide a determination if the paper topic is suitable for the class. If you do not receive an affirmative assessment of suitability in written form, then you must take the final exam.

- Draft paper (Due: April 11)
- Final Paper (Due: May 3)

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.

Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under [UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#).

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 10</p>	<p>American Political Parties at the Founding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldrich, John. 2011. <i>Why Parties? A Second Look</i>. (Chapter 1). • Houghton, W. R. 1882. <i>History of American Politics: Embracing a History of the Federal Government and of Political Parties in the Colonies and United States from 1607 to the Present</i>. Caxton. (Chapters 1 and 2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/inauthors/view?docId=VAC1099&brand=ia-books (There are many online sources for this book. This one has a pdf download option) • Federalist #10, #15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp ○ https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed15.asp • President George Washington's Farewell Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/re_sources/pdf/Washingtons_Farewell_Address.pdf
<p>Week 2 Jan 17</p>	<p>Why Parties? Group-Based Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Political Science Association's Committee on Political Parties. 1950. "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System: A Report of the Committee on Political Parties." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 44(Sept. Supplement): Part I. • Key, V. O. Jr. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 17(1): 3-18. • Bawn, Kathleen, Martin Cohena, David Karola, Seth Masketa, Hans Noela and John Zallera. 2012. "A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands and Nominations in American Politics." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 10(3):571-597. • Grossman, Matt and David A. Hopkins. 2015. "Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats: Asymmetry of American Politics." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 13(1): 119-39.
<p>Week 3 Jan 24</p>	<p>Why Parties? Rational Choice Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Downs. 1957. "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy" <i>The Journal of Political Economy</i> 65(2):135-150. (A condensed version of his book, <i>An Economic Theory of Democracy</i>.) • Aldrich, John. 2011. <i>Why Parties? A Second Look</i>. (Chapter 2).
<p>Week 4 Jan 31</p>	<p>Why Parties? Expressive Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iyengar, Leikes, Levendusky, Malhotra, Westwood. 2019. "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States." <i>Annual Review of</i>

	<p><i>Political Science</i> (22): 129-46.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huddy, Mason, and Aaroe. "Expressive Partisanship: Campaign Involvement, Political Emotion, and Partisan Identity." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 109(1): 1-17. • McDonald and Tolbert. 2012. "Perceptions vs. Actual Exposure to Electoral Competition and Political Participation." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 76(3): 538-54.
<p>Week 5 Feb 7</p>	<p>Parties as Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldrich, John. 2011. <i>Why Parties? A Second Look</i>. (Chapter 3). • Brown, M. Craig and Charles N. Halaby. 1987. "Machine Politics in America, 1870-1945" <i>The Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> 17(3): 587-612. • Frenreis, John P., James L. Gibson and Laura L. Vertz. 1990. "The Electoral Relevance of Local Party Organizations." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 84(1): 225-235.
<p>Week 6 Feb 14</p>	<p>Formation of Parties in the Electorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell, Angus, Phillip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. <i>The American Voter</i>. (Chapters 6, 7 & 10). Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press. • Jennings, M. Kent and Richard G. Niemi. 1968. "The Transmission of Political Values from Parent to Child" <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 62(1): 169-184. • Yair Ghitza, Andrew Gelman, and Jonathan Auerbach. 2022. "The Great Society, Reagan's Revolution, and Generations of Presidential Voting." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> • Michael B. MacKuen, Robert S. Erikson, James A. Stimson. 2000. "Macropartisanship." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 83(4): 1125-1142.
<p>Week 7 Feb 21</p>	<p>The Great Polarization in the Electorate Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris P. Fiorina, Samuel J. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope. 2010. <i>Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America, 3rd Edition</i>. • Alan I. Abramowitz. 2013. <i>The Polarized Public: Why American Government Is So Dysfunctional</i>. • Larry M. Bartels. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 44(1): 35-50.
<p>Week 8 Feb 28</p>	<p>How Voters Use Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes. 1960. <i>The American voter</i>. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., (Chapter 2). • Milton Lodge and Ruth Hamill. 1986. "A Partisan Schema for Political Information Processing." <i>The American</i>

	<p><i>Political Science Review</i> 80(2): 505-520.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartels, Larry M. 2002. "Beyond the Running Tally: Partisan Bias in Political Perceptions." <i>Political Behavior</i> 24(2): 117-150. • Fowler, Hill, Lewis, Tausanovich, Vavreck, and Warshaw, C. 2022. "Moderates." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 1-18.
Week 9 March 7	<p>Party Labels and Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Woon and Jeremy C. Pope. 2008. "Made in Congress? Testing the Electoral Implications of Party Ideological Brand Names." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 70(3): 823-836. • Vavreck, Lynn. 2001. "The Reasoning Voters Meets the Strategic Candidate: Signals and Specificity in Campaign Advertising, 1998." <i>American Politics Research</i> 29(5): 507-29. • Neiheisel, Jacob R. and Sarah Niebler. 2013. "The Use of Party Brand Labels in Congressional Election Campaigns." <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> 38(3): 377-403. • Jamie L. Carson, Gregory Koger, Matthew J. Lebo, Everett Young. 2010. "The Electoral Costs of Party Loyalty in Congress." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 54(3): 598-616.
Week 10 March 14	SPRING BREAK
Week 11 March 21	<p>Representation: Parties and Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tufte, Edward R. 1973. "The Relationship between Seats and Votes in Two-Party Systems." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 67(2): 540-554. • Stephen Ansolabehere, James M. Snyder, Jr., Charles Stewart, III. 2000. "Candidate Positioning in U.S. House Elections" <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 45(1): 136-159. • Steven Rogers. 2016. "National Forces in State Legislative Elections." <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences</i>. 667(Sept): 207-25.
Week 12 March 28	<p>Theories of Parties in Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldrich, John. Why Parties? (Chapters 7 & 8) • Cooper, Joseph and David W. Brady. 1981. "Institutional Context and Leadership Style: The House from Cannon to Rayburn." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 75(2): 411-425. • Keith Krehbiel. 1993. "Where's the Party?" <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 23(2): 235-266. • David W. Rohde. 1994. "Parties and Committees in the House: Member Motivations, Issues, and Institutional

	Arrangements." <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> 19(3): 341-359.
Week 13 April 4	<p>Parties and Legislative Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groseclose, Tim. 1996. "An Examination of the Market for Favors and Votes in Congress." <i>Economic Inquiry</i> 34(2): 320-40. • Binder, Sarah A. and Eric D. Lawrence and Forrest Maltzman. 1999. "Uncovering the Hidden Effect of Party." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 61(3): 815-831. • Stephen Ansolabehere, James M. Snyder, Jr., Charles Stewart III. 2001. "The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll-Call Voting." <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> 26(4): 533-572. • Binder, Sarah A. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 93(3): 519-533.
Week 14 April 11	<p>State Political Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erikson, Robert S. Gerald C. Wright Jr., John P. McIver. 1989. "Political Parties, Public Opinion, and State Policy in the United States." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 83(3): 729-50. • Neil A. O'Brian . 2019. "One-Party States and Legislator Extremism in the US House, 1876–2012." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 81(4): 1223-39. • Squire, Peverill. 2007. "Measuring State Legislative Professionalism: The Squire Index Revisited." <i>State Politics & Policy Quarterly</i> 7(2): 211–27. • Lax, Jeffrey R. and Justin H. Phillips. 2011. "The Democratic Deficit in the States." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 56(1): 148-166.
Week 15 April 18	<p>Legislative Parties and Appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCarty, Nolan, and Rose Razaghian. 1999. "Advice and Consent: Senate Responses to Executive Branch Nominations 1885- 1996." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 43(4): 1122-43. • Shipan, Charles. 2008. "Partisanship, Ideology, and Senate Voting on Supreme Court Nominees." <i>Journal of Empirical Legal Studies</i> 5(1): 55-76. • Mishler, William, and Reginald S. Sheehan. 1993. "The Supreme Court as a Countermajoritarian Institution? The Impact of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decisions." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 87(1): 87–101.
Week 16 April 25	FINAL
Week 17 May 3	Wednesday: FINAL @ 3pm-5pm