

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**GOVERNMENT 381L
POLITICAL PARTIES**

PROFESSOR DARON R. SHAW
FALL 2010

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| UNIQUE #: | 38770 | MEETING TIME: | TH 6:30-9:30 |
| MEETING PLACE: | BATTS 1.104 | OFFICE HOURS: | TH 2:00-5:00 |
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SOME THOUGHTS ON PARTIES

I believe that both politics and the attendant discipline of political science are prone to cycles. Individuals and ideas rise, draw a great deal of attention, and fall, prompting scorn and, ultimately, neglect. If this is true, political parties have been at an ebb point, both in terms of public opinion and scholarly research. It is also a safe bet that parties will soon be on the upswing.

The truth is that parties are essential to understanding democratic politics. Parties offer a particularly good vehicle for studying the politics of a democratic society because parties are the principle linkage between citizens and elites in the struggle to decide who will control the formal institutions of government. For citizens, parties are an organized attempt to influence the distribution of rights, goods, and services. At elections, their grievances and aspirations are presented, enabling observers to discover what matters and what is ignored in the polity. For elites, parties are the institutions through which they coordinate their activities as they attempt to appeal to and satisfy the interests and grievances of their support base. Observing how elites articulate grievances, mobilize the concerned, and craft public policy remedies offers one of the best ways to learn about the politics of a society.

I have two specific thoughts on the study of political parties that influence the design and accomplishment of this course. First, knowledge about parties can only be attained through analyses that compare party systems. Single-country analyses yield narrow descriptions that lack any appreciation of the variables that underlie institutions and processes. The need, therefore, is to study parties with questions that recognize that the parties in any given country are one configuration of variables that generally characterize parties and party systems.

Second, identifying theoretically significant questions is no easy matter, producing a situation in which we do not really know what knowledge about parties is worth having. We have a lot of (mostly true) facts, but less understanding or theory.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course reflects the beliefs expressed above. Our focus is on parties as electoral connections. Some appreciable portion of the class contains non-American material that analyzes party system themes (allowing us to sample the variance in institutional forms and processes). We do dwell on the American example, however, particularly in the latter stages of the course. It is also worth observing that some important topics are not covered, or are covered only incidentally, due to time constraints. You are invited to read extensively about one of these "missed" topics and write your paper on it.

Class meetings will run a maximum of three hours with a 15-minute break about two hours into class. (A typical week consists of reading around 175 pages of material. Some weeks will be less and some will be considerably more). At the beginning of each class, you will turn in a 1-2 page, typed, double-spaced overview of the week's readings.

The first two hours of class meetings will be run as a pro-seminar on various topics. Within broad subject areas we will discuss several perspectives and contributions. In this sense, the format of the class will be fairly typical; weekly reading assignments will serve as the basis for critical inquiries into a range of issues. Discussion leaders will be designated each week to provide critical overviews and facilitate discussions.

The third hour of the class is dedicated to aid the development and execution of students' research papers. This design is to ensure that the course teaches you something about what it means to do research in political science. Most of us can readily identify the short-comings of the political science we read, but far fewer can pose interesting alternatives, formulate testable hypotheses and research designs, acquire pertinent data and carry out convincing tests and analyses. This course aims at focusing your abilities and talents on these endeavors as well as bringing you up to speed on the literature.

MATERIALS

Books

There are four assigned texts for the course. Three are available at the University Co-Op bookstore.

1. John Aldrich. *Why Parties?* University of Chicago Press.
2. Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Harper.
3. Alan Ware. *Political Parties and Party Systems*, Oxford University Press.

The fourth is:

4. John Bibby and Brian Schaffner, *Politics, Parties, and Elections in America*. 6th ed. Thompson Wadsworth.

You can order this online.

Course Packet

I used to require a course packet, but now that I have a CD with all of these readings, I will simply upload that onto Blackboard and you can read it online (or print it out). Think of me fondly when I'm gone.

Internet Resources and Informational Sites

If you want to use the Internet to keep abreast of what’s happening in politics, I recommend the following sites:

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| <p>Media http://www.cnn.com http://www.foxnews.com http://www.nytimes.com http://www.washingtonpost.com http://www.latimes.com http://pcl.stanford.edu/ http://www.localnewsarchive.org/index.html</p> <p>Advertising http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php http://www.c-span.org/classroom/govt/campaignads.asp http://polisci.wisc.edu/tvadvertising/Index.htm</p> <p>Money http://www.fec.gov http://www.opensecrets.com http://www.followthemoney.org</p> <p>Election Data http://uselectionatlas.org http://www.umich.edu/_nes/index.htm http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/redist/redist.htm</p> <p>For data for a specific state, check the Secretary of State’s website (Election Division).</p> | <p>Parties http://www.dems.org http://www.rnc.org</p> <p>Texas Parties http://www.txdemocrats.org http://www.texasgop.org</p> <p>Third Party Madness! http://www.greenpartyus.org http://www.lp.org http://www.reformparty.org</p> <p>Polling http://www.pollingreport.com/ http://www.vanishingvoter.org/ http://www.gallup.com http://www.exit-poll.net/ http://www.pollster.com http://fievthirtyeight.com</p> <p>General http://www.realclearpolitics.com http://www.politico.com</p> |
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REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be determined as follows:

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| 1. Weekly Overviews of the Readings | 20% |
| 2. Discussion Leader Presentations | 20% |
| 3. Research Papers: | |
| A. Proposal | 5% |
| B. Outline/First Draft | 15% |
| C. Final Draft | 40%. |

Grades for all assignments will be on an A-F scale. You must complete all of the assignments to pass. The nature of the proposal and paper will be discussed later. The due dates listed below are firm, though I am willing to discuss accommodations for compelling reasons. I reserve the right to determine what is “compelling”. Needless to say, all work must be original and your own. Collaboration is not an option for the papers, though you may wish to consult with others on the readings and on your presentations.

You may choose your “discussion” week by signing up on the sheet posted outside my office.

OTHER MATTERS

Research into political parties has traditionally relied heavily on statistical analyses of voting or organizational data. This will be obvious in your readings. It is not imperative that you have a strong statistical background to take this course. Furthermore, you are not required to conduct a research inquiry that uses survey or ballot data. However, these are the forms of evidence and analysis that mark the field. If you choose to specialize in this area, expect to be asked to back your arguments with “hard” data. This does not necessarily mean polls or voting data, though these are certainly the most accessible and accepted forms of “hard” data. For those of you who are just getting started, I'd be happy to help you become familiar with the most common data sets (NES, GSS, etc.).

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Included in course packet

** Please find on JSTOR

- Week 1 (August 26):** **Meet and greet.** We will have a session, but it will be a quick orientation. Please stop by my office to obtain a syllabus or download it off the Internet.
- Week 2 (September 2):** **APSA Conference (NO MEETING)**
- Week 3 (September 9):** **Introduction: Definitions and Conceptions of Parties**
Aldrich, Chapters 1- 2
Downs, Chapter 2
Ware, Introduction
Scarrow, "The Function of Political Parties: A Critique of the Literature and the Approach"*
King, "Political Parties in Western Democracies: Some Skeptical Reflections"*
Schonfeld, "Political Parties: The Functional Approach and the Structural Approach"*
Katz, "Party in Democratic Theory"*
White, "What is a Political Party?*"
Sabato and Larson, Chapter 1*
- Week 4 (September 16):** **Spatial/Ideology and Organizational Approaches**
Ware, Chapters 1, 3, 4.1-4.3, 4.5
Downs, Chapters 7-8
Katz and Mair, "The Evolution of Party Organizations in Europe"*
Panebianco, "Dominant Coalition and Organizational Stability"*
Schlesinger, "On the Theory of Party Organization"*
Duverger, "Caucus and Branch, Cadre Parties and Mass Parties"*
- Week 5 (September 23):** **The Institutional Approach**
Ware, Chapters 5, 6.2, 6.3.
Duverger, "The Two-Party System and the Multi-Party Systems"*
Dahl, "Party Systems and Patterns of Opposition"*
Blondel, "Types of Party System"*
Rokkan, "The Electoral Balance"*
Sartori, "A Typology of Party Systems"*
Moser, "Electoral Systems and Number of Parties in Post-Communist States"*
- Week 6 (September 30):** **Social Cleavage Theory**
Ware, Chapters 6.1, 6.4
Daalder, "The Reach of the Party System"*
Lipset and Rokkan, "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments"*
Rokkan, "Towards a Generalized Concept of *Verzuiling*"*
Sartori, "The Sociology of Parties"*
Brambor, Clark, and Golder, "Are African Party Systems Different?*"
Dominguez and McCann, *AJPS* (March 1995)**
Petrocik and Chhibber, *BJPS* (April 1989)**
- Week 7 (October 7):** **Party System Dynamics**
Ware, Chapter 7
Wolenitz, "The Transformation of Western European Party Systems"*

Flanagan and Dalton, "Models of Change"*
Lijphart, "Dimensions of Ideology in European Party Systems"*
Inglehart, "From Class-Based to Values-Based Politics"*
Dietz and Myers, "From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru"*
Ignazi, "The Silent Counter-Revolution"*

PROPOSAL DUE, 10/7

- Week 8 (October 14):** **Realignment and Dealignment of the American Party Systems**
Aldrich, Chapters 3-4
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapter 2
Sundquist, Chapters 1-3, 5, 7*
Petrocik, Chapters 2, 3, 8*
Judis and Teixeira, Chapters 2-3*
Key, "A Theory of Critical Elections," JOP (January 1955)**
Cost, "An Incipient Realignment?"
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2007/06/an_incipient_realignment_a_res.html
- Week 9 (October 21):** **American Party Organizations and Machine Politics**
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapter 4*
Schlesinger, "The New American Political Party," APSR (December 1985)**
Gibson, et al. "Assessing Party Organizational Strength," AJPS (May 1983)**

VIDEO: "Ed Kelley & the Fightin' 47th"
- Week 10 (October 28):** **Parties, Public Opinion, and Voting**
Ware, Chapter 11
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapter 7
Bartels, AJPS (January 2000)**
Green, Palmquist, and Schickler, APSR (Dec., 1998)**
- Week 11 (November 4):** **Parties and Election Campaigns**
Ware, Chapter 10
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapter 8
Rabinowitz and MacDonald, APSR (March 1989)**
Petrocik, AJPS (August 1996)**
- Week 12 (November 11):** **Third Parties**
Harmel, "The Impact of New Parties"*
Rosenstone, Behr, and Lazarus, Chapters 2, 5-6, 8*
Stone, et al. AJPS (January 1999)**
- Week 13 (November 18):** **Leadership, Recruitment, Activism, Selecting Candidates, and Presidential Nomination Dynamics**
Ware, Chapters 2, 4.4, 9
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapters 3, 5, and 6
Bartels, Chapters 5-6*

DRAFT DUE, 11/18

Week 14 (November 25): No class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 15 (December 2): **Parties in Government**
Aldrich, Chapter 7
Ware, Chapter 12
Bibby and Schaffner, Chapter 9
Davidson, "Congressional Parties, Leaders, and Committees"*
Binder, "Can the Parties Govern?"*

Week 16 (December 9): **Reforming (or Moving Beyond?) Parties**
Pomper, "Party Responsibility and the Future of American Democracy"*
Lowi, "The Political Parties and the Future State of the Union"*
Cohen and Kantor, "Decline and Resurgence in the American Party System"*
Bartels and Vavreck, "Campaign Reform: Insights and Evidence," available at
<http://www.wws.princeton.edu/lbartels/campaignreform/>
University of Virginia, "A Guide for Reform," available at
http://www.centerforpolitics.org/reform/report_nominating.htm

December 13: **FINAL DRAFT DUE, 12/13**

* Included in course packet

** Please find on JSTOR