

Political Science 4530
American Political Parties Spring 2021 (58125)
Baldwin 102
T/TR 2:20-3:35 p.m.

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Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

This course is intended as a broad survey of the literature surrounding both the development and function of American political parties. Throughout the semester, we will examine the theory behind why parties exist, the rise and growth of American political parties, their function in both elections and the legislative process, and the current state of parties in American politics. Leaving this course, you should have a better understanding of the nature of parties in American politics.

Required Text

Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*.

Supplemental Texts (not required)

Heersink, Boris, and Jeffrey A. Jenkins. 2020. *Republican Party Politics and the American South 1865-1968*. Cambridge University Press.

Course Materials

The readings for the course will be drawn from the list of books above, in addition to scholarly articles or news articles each week. Required books are available for purchase from the usual sources or may be checked out from the library. Unless otherwise indicated, assigned articles or book chapters (not from textbook) can be downloaded from ELC, www.jstor.org or from the UGA library (<http://www.libs.uga.edu/ejournals/>). Please keep in mind that assigned readings or the course schedule may be altered at the discretion of the instructor.

General Expectations

I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. You are expected to attend class regularly (whether that be via zoom or in person), to show up on time, and be prepared to participate in discussions. You are responsible for all material in the readings and lectures, even if you are unable to attend class. It is your responsibility to remain aware of specific deadlines or dates posted on the syllabus and to be sure that assignments are completed on time.

Coronavirus Information for Students

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

DawgCheck: Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

What do I do if I have symptoms? Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed? Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test? Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162. UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive? Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance/Participation (5%)
2. Historical Political Parties Project (10%)
3. Parties and Modern Politics Project (20%)
4. First Exam (20%)
5. Second Exam (20%)
6. Final Exam (25%)

In terms of final grades in light of the +/- grading system, an A will be given to anyone receiving 93 or more points, an A- to those receiving 90-92 percentage points, a B+ to those receiving 87-89 percentage points, a B to those receiving 83-86 percentage points, a B- to those receiving 80-82 percentage points, a C+ to those receiving 77-79 percentage points, a C to those receiving 73-76 percentage points, a C- to those receiving 70-72 percentage points, a D to those receiving 60 to 69 percentage points, and an F to anyone receiving fewer than 60 percentage points in the course.

Attendance/Participation

Your grade for attendance/participation will be based on class attendance (whether zoom or in-person) and the quality of your classroom participation. You are allowed three unexcused absence without penalty. After three absence, your attendance grade will be penalized unless you have a legitimate excuse for missing class. In-class attendance will be determined by randomizing students into 3 groups. This will be supplied once class approaches. If a student is assigned to attend in-person for a day, but they are uncomfortable doing so, the student is welcome to attend via zoom with no penalty.

Historical Parties Assignment

Each student will be required to submit a brief history of a historical American political party. In the assignment, students will be required to speak about the rise and fall of each party, the main leadership, and any notable successes or failures they had, amongst other interesting facts they find. A template with a practice assignment, as well as an assignment guide will be posted on ELC. These short assignments will be due on **March 11 by 2:20 p.m.** on ELC.

Parties and Modern Politics Project

Everyone will be required to submit a final parties project near the end of the semester. This project will assess a student's ability to summarize information and create conclusions about current political parties and their roles in key political arenas. A template with a practice assignment, as well as an assignment guide will be posted on ELC. These election projects will be due on **April 20 by 2:20 p.m.** on ELC.

Exams

There will be two exams and a final exam in this course. Exams will include general short answer questions, as well as two essay questions. The final exam is cumulative and will include material covered in the class lectures and the assigned reading. Both tests and answer sheets will be handed out remotely, and students will be required to return the completed tests to ELC within a given time period. Tests will be open-notes due to COVID, but plagiarism policies still apply. Please use your own words on all assignments.

Incompletes and Make-Up Policy

A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. If an incomplete is given, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the necessary requirements as early in the following semester as possible. Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., a university-sanctioned activity, religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible to allow a make-up to be scheduled. As a rule, late assignments will not be accepted unless approval is obtained in advance from the instructor.

Miscellaneous

Extra credit will not be scheduled during this course. Any decision to use extra credit will be up to the discretion of the instructor. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations will be announced to the class by the instructor if any changes occur. Reminder: no information pertaining to course grades or final grades can be discussed over the telephone or via email.

Instructor Availability

Due to COVID, my office hours for the semester will be conducted remotely via Zoom and will be by appointment. To ensure we have quality and productive meetings, students must email me ahead of time to set up a specific time to meet, as well as inform me of the topic of the meeting so I can plan accordingly.

Special Assistance and Academic Honesty

Students requiring special accommodation should notify me and the Office for Disability Services as soon as possible so the appropriate arrangements can be made. All information as well as documentation is considered confidential.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).

If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA(<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Notice: Assigned readings are to be completed by the dates listed below

PART 1: Theory and Development of American Political Parties

Section 1: Why Parties, Factions, and the Founding Fathers

- **Jan 19—What are Parties and Why They Originate? Part 1**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 1)
- **Jan 21— What are Parties and Why They Originate? Part 2**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 2)
- **Jan 26— What are Parties and Why They Originate? Part 3**
 - Stokes, Susan C. 1999. “Political Parties and Democracy.” *Annual Review of Political (ELC)*
- **Jan 28— American Founders and Factions**
 - The Federalist Papers: No. 10
(https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp)

Section 2: The History and Development of American Political Parties

- **Feb 2— The First American Parties**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 3)
- **Feb 4— American Parties and Jackson**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 4)
- **Feb 9— American Parties to Reconstruction**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 5)
- **Feb 11— Modern American Parties 1**
 - Aldrich (Chapters 6 and 7)
- **Feb 16— Modern American Parties 2**

- Heersink and Jenkins. Republican Party Politics and the American South. Pg 63-65; also read Chapters 5 and 6 (ELC)
- **Feb 18— Modern American Parties 3**
 - Aldrich (Chapter 8)
 - Black, Merle. 2004. "The Transformation of the Southern Democratic Party." *The Journal of Politics* 66(4): 1001-1017. (ELC)
- **Feb 23— Test 1 (Over Part 1)**

PART 2: Parties and Processes

Section 1: Parties and the Legislative Process

- **Feb 25— The Role of Parties in the Legislative Process 1**
 - Steve Smith. *Party Influence in Congress* Ch. 5 (ELC)
- **Mar 2— The Role of Parties in the Legislative Process 2**
 - Steve Smith. *Party Influence in Congress* Ch. 3 (ELC)
 - Finocchiaro, Charles J., and David W. Rohde. 2008. "War for the floor: Partisan theory and Agenda Control in the US House of Representatives." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 33(1): 35-61. (ELC)
- **Mar 4— Gridlock and Outcomes in the Legislature**
 - Binder, Sarah A. "The dynamics of legislative gridlock, 1947–96." *American Political Science Review* 93.3 (1999): 519-533. (ELC)
 - Jones, David R. 2001. "Party Polarization and Legislative Gridlock." *Political Research Quarterly* 54(1): 125-141 (ELC)
- **Mar 9— No Class: Writing and Research Day**
- **Mar 11— Party Leadership and Reform**
 - Rohde 1991. Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House. Chapter 2 (ELC)
 - *Historical Parties Assignment Due by 2:20 p.m. (Beginning of Class)*
- **Mar 16— Parties and the Presidency – Legislatively**
 - Edwards III, George C., Andrew Barrett, and Jeffrey Peake. 1997. "The Legislative Impact of Divided Government." *American Journal of Political Science*, 545-563.

Section 2: Parties, Elections, and Voters

- **Mar 18— Parties and the Presidency – Electorally**
 - Fiorina, Morris P. 2017. "The (Re) Nationalization of Congressional Elections." *Hoover Institution*.
- **Mar 23—Parties, Candidates, and Elections 1**
 - Herrnson, Paul S. "Do parties make a difference? The role of party organizations in congressional elections." *The Journal of Politics* 48.3 (1986): 589-615.
- **Mar 25—Parties, Candidates, and Elections 2 / Test 2 Review**
 - No Class Readings
- **Mar 30— Test 2 (Over Part 2)**

PART 3: Party Trends in Modern Politics

- **Apr 1— Voters and Partisan Identity**
 - Bartels, Larry. M. 2002. “Beyond the Running Tally: Partisan Bias in Political Perceptions.” *Political Behavior* 24: 117-50. **(ELC)**
- **Apr 6— Parties and Gender**
 - Barnes, Tiffany D., and Erin C. Cassese. 2017. "American Party Women: A Look at the Gender Gap within Parties." *Political Research Quarterly* 70 (1): 127-141. **(ELC)**
- **Apr 8—No Class (Instructional Break)**
- **Apr 13— Parties and Race**
 - Giles, Micheal W., and Kaenan Hertz.1994. "Racial Threat and Partisan Identification." *American Political Science Review*, 317-326. **(ELC)**
 - Knuckey, Jonathan, and Myunghee Kim. 2020. "The Politics of White Racial Identity and Vote Choice in the 2018 Midterm Elections." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(4): 1584-1599. **(ELC)**
- **Apr 15— No Class: Writing and Research Day**
- **Apr 20— Party Polarization**
 - McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal. Polarized America. Chapter 2. **(ELC)**
 - Parties and Modern Politics Assignment due by 2:20 p.m. (Beginning of Class)
- **Apr 22— Polarization: Causes and Effects**
 - Heberlig, Eric, Marc Hetherington, and Bruce Larson. "The Price of Leadership: Campaign Money and the Polarization of Congressional Parties." *The Journal of Politics* 68.4 (2006): 992-1005. **(ELC)**
 - Lee, Frances E. 2015. "How Party polarization Affects Governance." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18: 261-282. **(ELC)**
- **Apr 27— Polarization and Nationalization**
 - Hopkins. The Increasingly United States. Chapter 7 (ELC)
- **Apr 29—Final Exam Review (Optional)**
- **May 6— FINAL EXAM – 3:30-6:30 (Over Parts 1, 2, and 3)**