Course Description

This course is an introduction to the party politics in the United States. Even though we will sometimes deal with facts and figures, the main focus is to examine the workings of party politics in a scientific way. The topics that we will intensively discuss include: 1) parties and party systems; 2) political party as an organization; 3) political party in the electorate; 4) parties, nominations, and elections; 5) political party in government; and 6) party polarization.

Prerequisites

There is no official pre-requisite course except for junior standing. However, it is generally assumed that students are familiar with materials that are normally covered in POL SCI 104 (Introduction to American Government and Politics).

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1) Describe the origins of the American political parties and party systems;
2) Understand characteristics and functions of political party organizations;
3) Demonstrate knowledge of the role played by the party in the electorate;
4) Demonstrate knowledge of the role played by the party in government;
5) Critically analyze the current state of party polarization in the American political system.

This is a 3-credit online course over the one-semester period. In order to achieve the learning goals of the course, students are expected to set aside a minimum of 8 hours each week studying the materials, and another 4 hours each week working on assignments. Assignments include taking quizzes, writing essays, and completing a book review, among others.
Required Texts

The following textbook is required and available at the UWM bookstore:


The following list of books are used for “Book Review” project:


In addition, it is strongly recommended that students regularly read national as well as local newspapers. The New York Times (www.nytimes.com) and the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com) are two excellent sources of news on politics and government. If needed, CQ Weekly, Roll Call, and the Hill would be nice supplements.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course will have a site on the Canvas system (https://uwm.edu/canvas/). Every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9AM central, one document will be uploaded to Canvas. This “study guide” document includes:

- What students are expected to do until the next upload of study guide;
- Reading assignment;
  - It is based on substantive topics rather than number of textbook pages. So, it is possible that students read somewhat longer reading one week but shorter reading another week.
  - While the tentative schedule below gives you rough idea about reading schedule, it is extremely important that we follow the “actual” study guide that will be distributed via Canvas.
- Quiz;
  - In order to check the reading assignment, we will have quizzes
  - While the quiz is uploaded at 9AM, students can actually “start” the quiz anytime from 9AM to midnight.
  - Once the quiz is “open,” it must be completed within 30 minutes.
- Writing assignment;
  - Every other week (except for exam weeks), students are required to write a short essay (1-2 pages long).
The essay does NOT have so-called “correct” answer. Instead, students will need to effectively demonstrate their reasoning.

In addition, at the end of the semester, students are required to read one full-length book and write a book review. A special instruction will be provided later in the semester.

The final course grading will be based upon five parts:

1) **Quiz** (45%): In total, we will have 17 short quizzes. You can choose to discard two worst-performed quizzes. As such, each quiz is worth 3% of the final course grade.

2) **Essay** (15%): In total, we will have 5 short essays. Each essay is worth 3% of the final course grade. In general, it should be typed and double-spaced with 1-2 pages of length.

3) **Exam** (20%): We will have 2 exams, first on October 23 (Tuesday) and second on December 7 (Friday). Each exam is worth 10% of the final course grade. While the exam format is similar to the quiz format, a more detailed instruction will be given via the “study guide” document.

4) **Book Review** (10%): After the second exam, students will read one full-length book (chosen from the provided list), discuss the implications learned both in the textbook and from writing essays. In general, it should be typed and double-spaced with the 5-page maximum. A more detailed instruction will be given via the “study guide” document.

5) **Final Essay** (10%): By the end of semester, we will write a 5-page essay. Students can choose any topic that is related with the 2018 midterm election. However, it would be best to accommodate knowledge, information, and theory that students learn from this online course. A more detailed instruction will be given via “study guide” document.

Students who take this course under the Pass/Fail option must receive a grade of C or better in order to obtain a Pass on their final grade. A final grade of “incomplete” will only be given under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of Professor Park.

As a general rule, make-ups for any course requirements will not be given. Students who miss requirements because of scheduled activities of an official University student organization, a religious holiday, or a verifiable illness should contact Professor Park in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made.

If there is a dispute regarding a grade, re-grading is possible under two conditions:

- We will have a “cooling” period of at least TWO business days. Any complaints or disputes will NOT be considered in this period.
Then, all complaints must be *typed* and must clearly express specific concerns. These written statements must be accompanied by citations of support from course materials, i.e. readings, textbooks, and/or lecture notes, in order to ensure accuracy.

### Classroom Policies and Instructor Availability

All students are expected to behave professionally in this online class. Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of others’ opinions. Please do not intimidate, patronize, or ridicule anyone else during the course of class activities.

If students would like to speak with Professor Park outside of class time, feel free to stop by the office (Bolton 666) during regularly scheduled **office hours** (Mon & Wed 10:00–10:50AM). If students are unable to attend office hours, but would like to meet with Professor Park, make an appointment via email.

**Email** is a convenient way to continue contact between professor and student. Students should take advantage of this opportunity but should also do so in a professional manner. Please refer to the document, *Email Etiquette*, (uploaded to Canvas) to understand how to write a professional email.

### Academic Integrity and Student Disabilities

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has detailed its policies on academic integrity ([http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)). Students should acquaint themselves with policies concerning cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and academic interference. Any submission of work by a student in this course constitutes a certificate that the work complies with university policies on academic integrity. Violations could lead to automatic failure of the course.

Any student with disabilities of any kind (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact Professor Park and the Accessibility Resource Center ([www.sac.uwm.edu](http://www.sac.uwm.edu), Mitchell 112, 414-229-6287) at the beginning of the semester.

### Tentative Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule, and Professor Park reserves the rights to alter the reading/writing assignments and test dates in a timely fashion according to the progress of the class. Chapters below are from the Hershey textbook.

1. Introduction – 9/7 Friday
   * Login to the Canvas system—read the study guide there.
2. What are political parties? – 9/11 Tuesday
   • Ch. 1

3. American two-party system – 9/14 Friday
   • Ch. 2

4. Essay I – 9/18 Tuesday
   • The United States has maintained a two-party system rather than a multi-party system. Write an essay on “Could a multi-party system benefit you?”

5. State and local party organizations – 9/21 Friday
   • Ch. 3

6. National organizations – 9/25 Tuesday
   • Ch. 4

7. Party activists – 9/28 Friday
   • Ch. 5

8. Essay II – 10/2 Tuesday
   • Read “Which Would You Choose?” section in p. 94.
   • Write an essay on “Could a stronger national party benefit you?”

9. Party identification – 10/5 Friday
   • Ch. 6

10. Party coalition and party change – 10/9 Tuesday
    • Ch. 7
11. Parties and voter turnout – 10/12 Friday
   • Ch. 8

12. Essay III – 10/16 Tuesday
   • Read “Which Would You Choose?” section in p. 197.
   • Write an essay on “Should we represent interests of non-voters?”

13. Exam I – 10/23 Tuesday

14. How parties choose candidates – 10/26 Friday
   • Ch. 9

15. Choosing the presidential nominees – 10/30 Tuesday
   • Ch. 10

16. General election – 11/2 Friday
   • Ch. 11

17. Financing the campaigns – 11/6 Tuesday
   • Ch. 12

18. Essay IV – 11/9 Friday
   • Read a box section, “Campaign Spending: Too Much or Too Little?” in p. 277.
   • Write an essay on “Is the American democracy captured by money?”

19. Parties in Congress and state legislatures – 11/13 Tuesday
   • Ch. 13

20. Parties in the executive and the courts – 11/16 Friday
   • Ch. 14
21. The semi-responsible parties – 11/20 Tuesday
   - Ch. 15

22. Essay V – 11/27 Tuesday
   - Read “Which Would You Choose?” section in p. 329.
   - Write an essay on “Should Your Representatives Listen More Closely to the Party or to the Constituents?”

23. Political parties in American politics – 11/30 Friday
   - Ch. 16

24. Exam II – 12/7 Friday

25. Book review – 12/11 Tuesday & 12/14 Friday
   - Read one book from the list:
   - Write a 5-page review that discuss the implications learned both in the textbook and from writing essays.

26. Final Essay – 12/21 Friday
   - Write a 5-page essay on the 2018 midterm election.
   - While students can choose any kinds of topics, keep in mind that this is the final project for the semester.