

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

*GOVERNMENT 325*  
**POLITICAL PARTIES**

PROFESSOR DARON R. SHAW  
SUMMER 2011

<b>UNIQUE #:</b>	85250	<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	MO-FR 2:30-4:00
<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	112 BURDINE	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	TU, TH 1:00-2:30
<b>OFFICE:</b>	4.146 BATTs	<b>PHONE:</b>	232-7275
<b>MY EMAIL:</b>	dshaw@austin.utexas.edu	<b>MAIL CODE:</b>	A1800
<b>TA:</b>	Josh Blank	<b>TA EMAIL:</b>	joshmblank@gmail.com
<b>OFFICE:</b>	1.118 BATTs	<b>OFFICE HRS:</b>	TU, WE, TH 4:00-5:00

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***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course focuses on the role political parties play in representative democracies. We will study the variables that distinguish party systems in different countries, the historical development of parties, and the nature of parties in contemporary democratic societies. We will also explore how parties mobilize mass populations for political purposes, as well as the character of party elites, activists and supporters.

The few sessions of the course are largely general and theoretical. Examples will be drawn from different countries to illustrate questions and arguments. The remainder of the course deals almost exclusively with the American parties.

My approach will be thematic. By studying institutions and processes that are generally characteristic of parties in democratic systems, you will recognize that many features of the American parties are a particular configuration of more general phenomena. Through the readings and lectures on the U.S. party system you will develop a conceptual and theoretical understanding of not only the American parties, but of political parties across the globe.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- 1. Take-Home Essay** 60 points (30%)
- 2. In-Class Exams**
  - Exam #1 40 points (20%)
  - Exam #2 40 points (20%)
  - Exam #3 40 Points (20%)
- 3. Attendance and Participation**
  - Attendance and Participation in class 20 points (10%).

Your final grade will thus be based on your total points (out of 200). In the past, I have often used a curve, which I will explain in class.

### Take-Home Essay

The take-home essay requires you to respond to a single broad, theoretical question. You are expected to rely on the assigned readings to construct your answer, although you are encouraged to go beyond the prepared course materials. Your response must be in essay form, 7-pages long, typed, double-spaced, with 10-12 point font and 1"-1.5" margins. Please turn in a hard copy of your take-home essay; electronic submissions are allowed only in exceptional circumstances. You may NOT collaborate with classmates on the take-home exams. The take-home is tentatively due on Tuesday, July 5. I will attempt to provide the take-home questions during the second week of class. The take-home will be graded on a 0-60 point scale. No late papers will be accepted without a compelling excuse. If I accept a late paper due to an excuse, I will deduct 5 points for each day the paper is late.

### Examinations

There will be three 75-minute exams given in this course. Exams will consist of approximately twenty "right or wrong" questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank) and five short answer items. These exams will draw in roughly equal measure from lecture and the readings. The midterm exams are NOT cumulative and are tentatively scheduled for June 13, June 27, and July 7. You will not be allowed to talk or use notes or books when taking the midterm exams. Anyone caught looking at their neighbor's test or at notes will be treated per University guidelines (in other words, cheating = grounds for expulsion, so don't do it). There will be no early examinations, nor can exams be taken at any place other than the scheduled room. Anyone who cannot take the exams at the scheduled time and place should not enroll in the course. The exams will be scored on a 0-40 point scale.

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required and affects your final grade. In a class of this size, I cannot take attendance daily; but I can give occasional pop-quizzes to determine who is in class and paying attention. In addition, some time will be allocated each Friday to discussing the readings. I strongly encourage participation and will gladly engage any discussion that I believe enhances our appreciation and understanding of politics. While not required, thoughtful participation in class discussion can bolster your attendance-participation grade. Your attendance grade will be scored on a 0-20 point scale.

A final point worth making is that you must complete ALL of the required assignments to pass the course. Anyone who does not do so will receive a grade of F.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

Course materials include textbooks, a course packet, and related sites of interest.

### Books

There are two assigned texts for the course. They are available at the University Co-Op bookstore.

- Marjorie Randon Hershey. *Party Politics in America* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.), New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 2011.
- Alan Ware. *Political Parties and Party Systems*, New York: Oxford Press, 1997.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

Class meetings will run approximately 75 minutes and will rely on a lecture format. I will, however, ask questions of the class and may call on students at random. On the other side of the lectern, questions and observations are always encouraged. I will try to recognize those raising their hand to ask a question as soon as possible. Keep in mind that the lectures parallel, but do not repeat the readings.

Anyone having difficulty with the course should feel free to see me after class or in office hours. If I can't help solve the problem myself, I can point you towards one of the many excellent support systems for students who need to improve their writing, research or study skills.

### **POLICY & PROCEDURES**

- ✓ It is distracting and discourteous to arrive late or leave during the lecture. I would discourage you from making a habit out of it.
- ✓ There will be no breaks during the class, so food, beverage and restroom necessities should be taken care of prior to class.
- ✓ Please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to entering the classroom.
- ✓ You are permitted to use your laptops to take notes.
- ✓ You are not permitted to transmit, copy, or otherwise distribute lecture material without my expressed written consent.
- ✓ At a more general level, please show respect for the classroom environment.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any disabled student may request appropriate academic accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259).

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

### **DISHONESTY**

Incidents of cheating, plagiarism, and general academic dishonesty will be treated as per university guidelines. Please note the Honor Code of the University:

<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>

### **INTERNET RESOURCES & INFORMATION SITES**

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

<p><b>Media</b>  <a href="http://www.cnn.com">http://www.cnn.com</a>  <a href="http://www.foxnews.com">http://www.foxnews.com</a>  <a href="http://www.nytimes.com">http://www.nytimes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">http://www.washingtonpost.com</a>  <a href="http://www.latimes.com">http://www.latimes.com</a></p> <p><b>Advertising</b>  <a href="http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php">http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php</a>  <a href="http://polisci.wisc.edu/tvadvertising/Index.htm">http://polisci.wisc.edu/tvadvertising/Index.htm</a></p> <p><b>Money</b>  <a href="http://www.fec.gov">http://www.fec.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.opensecrets.com">http://www.opensecrets.com</a>  <a href="http://www.followthemoney.org">http://www.followthemoney.org</a></p> <p><b>Election Data</b>  <a href="http://uselectionatlas.org">http://uselectionatlas.org</a>  <a href="http://www.umich.edu/_nes/index.htm">http://www.umich.edu/_nes/index.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/redist/redist.htm">http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/redist/redist.htm</a>            For data for a specific state, check the Secretary of State's website (Election Division).</p>	<p><b>Parties</b>  <a href="http://www.democrats.org">http://www.democrats.org</a>  <a href="http://www.rnc.org">http://www.rnc.org</a></p> <p><b>Texas Parties</b>  <a href="http://www.txdemocrats.org">http://www.txdemocrats.org</a>  <a href="http://www.texasgop.org">http://www.texasgop.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Party Madness!</b>  <a href="http://www.greenpartyus.org">http://www.greenpartyus.org</a>  <a href="http://www.lp.org">http://www.lp.org</a>  <a href="http://www.reformparty.org">http://www.reformparty.org</a></p> <p><b>Polling</b>  <a href="http://www.pollingreport.com">http://www.pollingreport.com</a>  <a href="http://www.pollster.com">http://www.pollster.com</a></p> <p><b>General</b>  <a href="http://www.realclearpolitics.com">http://www.realclearpolitics.com</a>  <a href="http://www.politico.com">http://www.politico.com</a>  <a href="http://www.fivethirtyeight.com">http://www.fivethirtyeight.com</a>  <a href="http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm">http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm</a></p>
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## SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The cell entries for the “readings” column list all the information you will need to read by Friday of the given week. It is not ordered to match the daily lecture topics.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
June 2 June 3	Introduction Definitions, Concepts, Examples of Parties	Hershey: Forward; pp. 1-13 Ware: Introduction
June 6 June 7 June 8 June 9 June 10	Differentiating Party Systems Typologies of Party Systems Social Cleavage Theory Party System Change American Party Systems	Hershey: pp. 23-25, Chapter 16 Ware: Chapters 1-3, 5-7  Hershey: pp. 14-37, Chapter 7
June 13 June 14 June 15 June 16 June 17	<b>FIRST EXAM JUNE 13</b> Post-New Deal System Realignment/Dealignment Party in the Electorate Voting Theories	Hershey: Chapters 6-8  Ware: Chapter 11
June 20 June 21 June 22 June 23 June 24	Parties and Election Campaigns Nominations Presidential Selection Machine Politics FILM: “Ed Kelley and the Fightin’ 47 <sup>th</sup> ”	Hershey: Chapters 9-11; Ware: Chapter 9-11
June 27 June 28 June 29 June 30 July 1	<b>SECOND EXAM JUNE 27</b> Money in Elections Party Organizations Polarization and Divided Government Third Parties in the U.S.	Hershey: Chapter 3-5, 12 Ware: review Chapters 2-3  Hershey: pp. 37-44
July 5 July 6 July 7	Parties in Government <b>TAKE-HOME ESSAYS DUE JULY 5</b> Reforming the Parties <b>THIRD EXAM JULY 7</b>	Hershey: Chapter 13-15 Ware: Chapter 12