UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

GOVERNMENT 325
POLITICAL PARTIES

PROFESSOR DARON SHAW
SPRING 2012

Unique#:	38615	**Meting Time:**	MWF 3:00-4:00
Meeting Place:	PHR 2.110	**Office Hours:**	MWF 2:00-3:00
Office:	Batts 4.146	**Phone:**	232-7275
Email:	dshaw@austin.utexas.edu		
TA:	Gustavo Rivera	**TA Email:**	grivera@utexas.edu
TA Office:	Batts 1.118	**Office Hours:**	MW 12:30-2:00

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 first four weeks 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 by your score out of 300 possible points. The break-down is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	QUESTIONS	DATE
Take-Home 1	75		March 2
Take-Home 2	75		April 27
Midterm 1			
Multiple Choice	30	30	March 5
Short-Answer	30	10	March 7
Midterm 2			
Multiple Choice	30	30	May 2

Short-Answer	30	10	May 4
ASSIGNMENT	**POINTS**	**QUESTIONS**	**DATE**
Attendance & Participation	30		
TOTAL	**300**		

Take-Homes

The take-home examinations require 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-homes are tentatively due on Friday, **March 2** and Friday, **April 27**. I will attempt to provide the take-home questions a week in advance of these due dates. The take-homes will be graded on a 0-75 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.

Midterms

The exams are not cumulative. The first exam covers material up to and including "parties and campaigns." The second exam covers material from "machine politics" through "reforming the parties." The exams encompass both reading and lecture material; the balance is approximately 60% lecture, 40% reading. As indicated by the figure above, each exam will be spread over two days. The first day will be multiple choice. Each item will have four response options. ("None of the above" or "B and C only" or "All of the above" are possible options.) The second day will be short answer questions. You will be asked to write a sentence or two in response to specific questions. Your answer will be graded on a 0-3 scale in which you start off with a 0 and work your way up depending upon the quality of your answer. An answer that is basically correct, for example, is worth 2 points. An answer that demonstrates that you can actually apply the appropriate concepts to understand politics more broadly is worth 3 points. My approach is to reward analytical mastery rather than nit-picking you to death.

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. The grading scale is 0-30 points.

Grading

Overall grades will be based upon a curve. The highest point total achieved in the class will be used as the 100% score, and all other scores will be recalculated as a percentage of that total. For example, if the high score is 280 points and you have a total of 245, your "curved" score/percentage would be 245/280 or 87.5%. This would be a B+.

The "curved" grading scale is as follows:

93%-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87%-89%	B+
83%-86%	B
80%-82%	B-
77%-79%	C+
73%-76%	C
70%-72%	C-
67%-69%	D+
63%-66%	D
60%-62%	D-
0%-59%	F.

There will be an opportunity for extra credit. The details are being worked out now, but you will be able to earn a few points for participating in a survey/experimental project (non-invasive, of course) for one of the other professors in the Government Department.

There will be *no early or make-up exams,* except for extreme emergencies (and I am the sole arbiter of what constitutes an extreme emergency). Incomplete grades are highly discouraged and will only be given in the direst of circumstances. Students must complete ALL assigned work to pass the course. Failure to complete all course requirements will result in a failing grade.

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* (14th ed.), New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 2011.
- Alan Ware. *Political Parties and Party Systems*, New York: Oxford Press, 1997.

Course Packet

In addition to these books, you will need to acquire the course packet from Abel's Copies. The course packet will be ready during the second week. Abel's Copies is located in University Towers, 715D West 23rd Street. The phone number is 472-5353.

COURSE FORMAT

Class meetings run approximately 50 minutes and rely on a lecture format. However, I 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 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. Because of this, not attending class is a particularly bad practice.

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:

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

	http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan. 18 **Jan. 20**	Brief Introduction Introduction: Definitions, Concepts, Examples of Parties	 Hershey: pp. 1-13 Ware: Introduction
Jan. 23-27	What Affects Parties and Party Systems? • Competition • Institutions and Rules • Groups	Hershey: pp. 23-25 Ware: Chapter 5, 1-3
Jan. 30-Feb. 3	What Affects Parties and Party Systems? • Competition • Institutions and Rules • Groups	Hershey: Chapter 16 Ware: Chapter 6
Feb. 6-10	Party System Change—	Reader: Mair, Wolenitz, Flanagan and Dalton, Inglehart, Lijphart
Feb. 13-17	The American Party Systems	Ware: 117-134 Reader: Ehrenhalt, Chapters 5, 9, Eldersveld and Walton, Chapter 3 Hershey: pp. 13-22, 27-37, Chapter 7
Feb. 20-24	Realignment and Dealignment Turnout	Ware: pp. 135-136 Ware: pp. 137-153
Feb. 27-30 **Mar. 2**	Public Opinion & Voting Behavior Campaigns **FIRST TAKE-HOME DUE, MARCH 2**	Hershey: Chapter 6, pp. 153-158 Hershey: Chapter 11 Ware: Chapter 11 Reader: Petrocik, Brox and Shaw
Mar. 5-7 **Mar. 9**	**FIRST MIDTERM EXAM, MARCH 5-7** FILM: "Ed Kelley and the Fightin' 47th"	
Mar. 10-18	**SPRING BREAK**	
Mar. 19-23	Party Activists, Organizations, and Machine Politics	Hershey: Chapters 3-5 Reader: McCullough, pp. 151-66 Reader: Eldersveld and Walton, pp. 137-43 Ware: Review Chapters 2 and 3
Mar. 26-30	Selecting Candidates The Presidential Nomination Processes	Hershey: Chapter 9 Hershey: Chapter 10 Ware: Chapter 9 Reader: Bartels, Chapters 1, 6
Apr. 2-6	Parties and Campaign Finance	Hershey: Chapter 12
Apr. 9-13	Third Parties in the U.S.	Hershey: pp. 37-43 Reader: Rosenstone, et al., Chapters 2, 6 Reader: Bailey, et al., Chapter 11
Apr. 16-20	Parties in Government— Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary	Hershey: Chapters 13, 14 Ware: Chapters 12

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS (cont'd)

Apr. 23-27	Elections, Governance, and Parties— Referenda and Divided Government Polarization and the Parties **SECOND TAKE-HOME DUE, APRIL 27**	Hershey: Chapter 15 Reader: Bailey, et al. Chapters 16-17 Reader: Potholm, pp. 133-55
April 30 **May 2-4**	Reforming the Parties **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM, MAY 2-4**	Hershey: Chapter 16 (again) Reader: Eldersveld and Walton, pp. 405-11