

## PS4100: Political Parties and Election Campaigns

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<http://web.missouri.edu/~dowj>  
OH: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:30  
and by appointment

Spring Semester 2020  
Tu/Th 9:30 – 10:45  
Middlebush 309

### Course Description

This course presents an overview of political parties and electoral politics. We will focus on political parties and elections in the United States. The course is organized around three broad themes. The first is the place of political parties in democratic governance. Here we ask why parties exist and explore the defining characteristics of parties relative to other political organizations. We also study the history of US political parties and the relationship between electoral rules and party systems. The second theme is parties in elections. Here we study the mechanics of United States electoral processes and American political behavior. Here we discuss the relationship between parties and political participation, campaign finance and party electoral strategies. The third theme centers on Congressional elections. Despite American's deep interest in the presidency, the legislature, especially the lower chamber, is the central organ of republican government.

### Readings and Required Books

The following two books are required and available for purchase at the MU bookstore.

Marjorie Randon Hershey *Party Politics in America* 16<sup>th</sup> ed. Longman

Gary C. Jacobson and Jamie L. Carson *The Politics of Congressional Elections*,  
10<sup>th</sup> ed. Rowman & Littlefield

All students *must* also obtain a 12-week student subscription (print) to *The Economist* magazine. (<https://www.economist.com/subscribe>) Please schedule your subscription to begin immediately.

The readings for a given week will consist of approximately two or three chapters from one or more of the primary texts. Also, please read *The Economist* on a weekly basis. We will discuss selected articles from *The Economist* in class.

## Grades

I will assign your semester grades based on four equally weighted five-page papers (4@20%) and class attendance and participation (20%). The papers require you to answer a single question. I will grade your papers on the quality of your answer and the quality of your writing. Your essays *must* use the full five-page allotment (double space) with normal fonts (12 pt.) and margins (1 inch).

I use the following, percentage-based, grading scale:

A+	97.9 – 100	C+	77.9 – 79.9	F	< 60.0
A	92.1 – 97.8	C	72.1 – 77.8		
A-	90.0 – 92.0	C-	70.0 – 72.0		
B+	87.9 – 89.9	D+	67.9 – 69.9		
B	82.1 – 87.8	D	62.1 – 67.8		
B-	80.0 – 82.0	D-	60.0 – 62.0		

## Important Dates:

2/6 First Essay Assigned	2/11 First Essay Due
2/27 Second Essay Assigned	3/3 Second Essay Due
4/2 Third Essay Assigned	4/7 Third Essay Due
4/30 Fourth Essay Assigned	5/7 Fourth Essay Due

## Special Notices (Boilerplate):

**1. This syllabus is not a contract.** I may change assignments or readings as circumstances warrant.

### 2. Make-up Examinations and Late Assignments

In general, a missed examination may not be made up. Likewise, I do not accept late assignments. In either of these cases, you will not receive credit for the exam or assignment. I may provide exceptions for those with an acceptable written excuse from a university administrator, health care professional or member of the clergy. This note should be on letterhead with the name, address and telephone number of the person verifying the reason for the missed examination or late assignment. I am the final arbitrator of whether an excuse is acceptable. **Please note the dates and times of the examinations. Please bring your student ID to the exam.**

### 3. Electronic Devices Policy

Every student has the right to listen to the lecture undistracted by electronic devices such as cellular phones, PDAs, laptop computers and similar electronic devices. Likewise, I expect the same courtesy with respect to my ability to present lectures. To ensure that electronics do not distract the class, and to

facilitate, rather than impede, learning, their uses in this class are subject to the following rules.

**A. Cellular Phones, Pagers, PDAs, Ipods/MP3 Players and related.**

These devices have no place in the classroom, and they may not be used during lecture. Please turn these off before you enter the auditorium.

**B. Laptop Computers**

Laptop computers are welcome in the classroom for note taking purposes, but may not be used for any other application. Web surfing, text messaging, email and other non-class related computer activities are not permitted during lecture.

N.B. I do not think typing class notes on a computer is a good idea. Note taking is not the same as dictation, and taking effective notes is a skill that must be learned and practiced. I recommend that you take notes using pen and paper, and then summarize and rephrase my lecture points in a manner that is meaningful to you. In the long-run you will learn more, and develop a skill that is more useful than typing quickly.

**4. ADA**

Please inform me immediately if you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance with examinations or other course requirements. You should also notify the Disability Services office regarding ADA considerations relevant to your performance in this class. I will make a reasonable effort to accommodate your needs.

**5. Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. Please contact me if you are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, inappropriate paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration. All examinations in this class must be completed independently.

**6. Intellectual Pluralism**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this

class may address concerns to either the Departmental Chapterair or Divisional leader or Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://osrr.missouri.edu/) (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

## **7. Trigger Warning**

This class requires that we discuss politics. This means you will sometimes disagree with your classmates or with me. Sometimes these disagreements will be vehement. Here you risk being exposed to arguments that you may find personally repugnant. Get over it. John Stuart Mill in *On Liberty* is surely correct when he argues that “He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that...if he is equally unable to refute the reasons on the opposite side; if he does not so much as know what they are, he has no ground for preferring either opinion.” To fully understand and effectively express one’s own positions, one must understand others’ positions.

While our discussions will foster disagreements, these discussions must remain positive, life affirming and respectful. In these, I have no interest in how you “feel” about something. I want to know what you think, and why you think it. Class discussions and assignments must be grounded in reasoned arguments. This means there are few “correct” answers; just various well-grounded and well-argued ones. If you seek unquestioned truth, you should attend seminary, not university.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Part I: Political Parties and American Democracy**

**1/21 & 1/23 Class Introduction: What is a Political Party and What Do They Do?**

Hershey - Chapter. 1

**1/28 & 1/30 A Ridiculously Brief History of US Political Parties.**

George Washington *Farewell Address*, 1796

Hershey - Chapter. 2.

“Progressivism” in *American Political Thought, 17<sup>th</sup> ed*, Michael S. Cummings (ed.)

**2/4 & 2/6 The US Electoral Setting**

Jacobson and Carson - Chapters. 1-2

**\*2/6 First Essay Assigned\***

**2/11 & 2/13 The Organization of American Political Parties**

Hershey - Chapters. 3-4

**\* 2/11 First Essay Due\***

**Part II: U.S. Electoral Context and Processes**

**2/18 & 2/20 The Evolution of US Election Processes – 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Andrew W. Robertson “Voting Rites and Voting Acts”

Richard F. Bense - *The American Ballot Box in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*. Chapters 1&2

Peter H. Argersinger “From Party Tickets to Secret Ballots”

**2/25 & 2/27 Franchise and Ballot Access**

Alexander Keyssar - *The Right to Vote* Chapter 8 and Conclusion

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (especially sections 2-5)

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 DOJ Historical Overview  
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/history-federal-voting-rights-laws>

*Shelby County v. Holder* 570 U.S. 2 (2013) read case summary and listen to 2/27/2013 oral arguments at  
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2012/12-96>

Joseph Anthony & David C. Kimball (2019) “Implementing voter ID: lessons from Missouri, USA” *Policy Studies*.

**\* 2/27 Second Essay Distributed \***

**3/3 & 3/5 Money and Elections**

Hershey - Chapter. 12.

Jacobson and Carson - pp. 77-109

*Dark Money* – PBS (POV film)

Read case summaries and listen to oral arguments (3) for Citizens United vs. FEC at [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org)

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2008/08-205>

**\*3/3 Second Essay Due\***

**3/10 & 3/12 Party in the Electorate**

Hershey - Chapters. 6 - 7.

Karen M. Kaufmann et al. "Americans Hate to Love their Party, but They Do!"

**3/17 & 3/19 Presidential Elections – I: Nominations**

Hershey - Chapters 9-10

**3/24 & 3/26 No Class: Spring Break**

**3/31 & 4/2 Presidential Elections – II: The Electoral College and Campaigns**

Selections from the *Record of the Federal Convention of 1787*.

Alexander Hamilton Letter to James Wilson 25 January, 1789

Gouverneur Morris Letter to President of New York Senate, 25 December, 1802

James Madison Letter to George Hay, 23 August, 1823

Hershey - Chapters 11

**\*4/2 Third Essay Distributed\***

**Part III Congressional Elections**

**4/7 & 4/9 US House and Statehouse Elections: The Institutional Context**

Jacobson and Carson – Chapters. 1&2.

Jay Dow – *Electing the House* - Chapter. 7

Ballotpedia – "Clean Missouri"

[https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri\\_Amendment\\_1,\\_Lobbying,\\_Campaign\\_Finance,\\_and\\_Redistricting\\_Initiative\\_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_Amendment_1,_Lobbying,_Campaign_Finance,_and_Redistricting_Initiative_(2018))

**\*4/7 Third Essay Due\***

**4/14 & 4/16 House Elections – Candidates and Campaigns**

Jacobson and Carson - Chapters 3&4

**4/21 & 4/23 House Elections – Voters and Issues**

Jacobson and Carson – Chapters 5&6

**4/28 & 4/30 House Elections – Representation**

Jacobson and Carson - Chapter 7

Jay Dow – *Electing the House* - Chapters. 9

**\*4/30 Fourth Essay Distributed\***

**5/5 & 5/7 Class Conclusion**

Readings: TBA

**\*5/7 Fourth Essay Due\***