American Political Parties
L32 5225

montgomery.wustl.edu/ps5225.html

Day: Mondays
Time: 4:00 – 6:00
Location: TBD

Instructor Information
Jacob M. Montgomery, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Office: Seigle 242
E-mail: jacob.montgomery@wustl.edu
Telephone: (314) 935-9106
Office Hours: Tues. 9:30-10:30, Wed. 1:30-3:00, and by appointment

Course Description
This seminar will introduce students to core literature on political parties with a strong bias towards recent work. After first surveying research on the role of parties in the American political system from the broadest perspective, the class will cover topics in two loosely defined areas. First, it will explore the role that parties play in public opinion, political behavior, and elections. Second, it will examine party institutions in their interactions with elected officials and other political elites.

The course will be seminar-style. The ultimate goal is to introduce students to new areas of research and further students’ own research agenda. Accordingly, students will be given a free hand in choosing topics of particular interest to themselves for additional reading and further research.

Requirements and Evaluation
There are four components of student evaluation in this course.

1. Class participation (20%). Class sessions will be in a seminar style and students are expected to do required readings before the class and come prepared to both ask questions and offer opinion on the work they have read.

2. Discussion leadership (15%): Each student will be asked to sign up as a “discussion leader” for one week. For this class session, the student is expected to pay special attention to the required readings and come prepared to help lead class discussion.

3. Two response papers (25%): Twice during the semester students will be expected to choose work from the supplemental reading list and compose an analytical response (approx. 5 pages). This paper should be roughly five pages, and no more than one page may include summary information. Students will be asked to informally explain their chosen supplemental readings and their critique in class. Students are encouraged, in consultation with
me, to go beyond the reading list and incorporate additional work if this would make the exercise more relevant to their own research agenda.

4. Research paper (40%): An original research paper that (hopefully) furthers students’ own research agenda. This paper (or preliminary results from it) will be presented in the final weeks of the course.

Required Books
The required books for this class are listed below. For some books, only a subset of chapters will be assigned. I have tried to put all of these books on reserve in the library. The Grynaviski book is still pretty pricey and The Mickey book doesn’t appear to actually be available yet. We can discuss those two during the first class.

- Why Parties?: A Second Look (Aldrich 2011)
- Dynamics of American Political Parties (Brewer and Stonecash 2009)
- Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the US House of Representatives (Cox and McCubbins 2005)
- The Macro Polity (Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson 2002)
- Partisan Hearts and Minds (Green, Palmquist and Schickler 2002)
- Partisan Bonds: A Unifying Account of Politicians, Political Parties, and their Reputations (Grynaviski 2010)
- Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States (Sundquist 1983)
- Southern Politics in State and Nation (Key 1949)
- The Partisan Sort: How Liberals Became Democrats and Conservatives Became Republicans (Levendusky 2009)
- No Middle Ground: How Informal Party Organizations Control Nominations and Polarize Legislatures (Masket 2009)
- Paths Out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America’s Deep South (Mickey 2011)
- Party Influence in Congress (Smith 2007)

Academic Honesty
Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to review the University’s policies regarding academic honesty.
## Tentative Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Aldrich (2011)</td>
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<td>Aldrich and Grynaviski (2010)</td>
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<td>9/19</td>
<td>Party systems</td>
<td>Sundquist (1983)</td>
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<td>Silbey (2010)</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Party dynamics</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Brewer and Stonecash (2009)</td>
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<td>Brewer (2010)</td>
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<td>Supplemental</td>
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<td>Key (1955, 1959)</td>
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<td>Layman et al. (2010)</td>
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<td>Miller and Schofield (2003)</td>
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<td>Aldrich (1983a, b)</td>
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<td>Kollman, Miller and Page (1992)</td>
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<td>Mayhew (2000, 2002)</td>
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<td>Rosenof (2003)</td>
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<td>10/3</td>
<td>Parties and race</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>Key (1949) Chapters 1, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31</td>
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<td>Mickey (2011) Chapters 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11</td>
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<td>Supplemental</td>
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<td>Karol (2009)</td>
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<td>Feinstein and Schickler (2008)</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Party ID #1</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson (2002), Chapters 1, 4-5, 8-10</td>
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<td>Green, Palmquist and Schickler (2002), Chapters 1-5, 8</td>
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<td>Supplemental</td>
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<td>MacKuen, Erikson and Stimson (1989)</td>
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<td>Green and Palmquist (1990, 1994)</td>
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<td>Green, Palmquist and Schickler (1998)</td>
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<td>Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson (1998)</td>
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<td>Huddy (2003)</td>
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<td>Campbell et al. (1960) Chapters 2,4,6-8</td>
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</table>
Part III: Parties and elites

10/31  Parties-in-government 1  

Required  
Cox and McCubbins (2005) Chapters 2, 3, 9, 10  
Aldrich and Rohde (2001)  
Rohde (2010)  

Supplemental  
Den Hartog and Monroe (2011)  
Sinclair (2010)  
Aldrich (1994)  
Patty (2008)  

11/7  Parties-in-government 2  

Required  
Smith (2007)  
Primo, Binder and Maltzman (2008)  

Supplemental  
Krehbiel (1993)  
Cox and Poole (2002)  
Jenkins (1999)  
Wright and Schaffner (2002)  
Lawrence, Maltzman and Smith (2006)  
Krehbiel (1998)  
Milkis and Rhodes (2010)  

10/17  Party ID #2  

Required  
Levendusky (2009)  
Achen (2002)  
Carsey and Layman (2006)  

Supplemental  
Fiorina (2002)  
Bartels (2000)  
Achen (1992)  

10/24  Party reputations  

Required  
Grynaviski (2010)  

Supplemental  
Snyder and Ting (2002)  
Downs (1957)  
Taber (2003)  
Lodge and Taber (2005)  
Lau and Redlawsk (2001)  
Rahn (1993)  
Conover and Feldman (1989)  

Part III: Parties and elites

10/31  Parties-in-government 1  

Required  
Cox and McCubbins (2005) Chapters 2, 3, 9, 10  
Aldrich and Rohde (2001)  
Rohde (2010)  

Supplemental  
Den Hartog and Monroe (2011)  
Sinclair (2010)  
Aldrich (1994)  
Patty (2008)  

11/7  Parties-in-government 2  

Required  
Smith (2007)  
Primo, Binder and Maltzman (2008)  

Supplemental  
Krehbiel (1993)  
Cox and Poole (2002)  
Jenkins (1999)  
Wright and Schaffner (2002)  
Lawrence, Maltzman and Smith (2006)  
Krehbiel (1998)  
Milkis and Rhodes (2010)  

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11/14 Parties-as-organization

Required
- Herrnson (2010)
- Masket (2009)

Supplemental
- Cohen et al. (2008)
- Koger, Masket and Noel (2009)
- Noel (2010)
- Monroe (2001)
- Masket (2007)
- Magleby (2010)
- Montgomery and Nyhan (2011)

11/21 Parties & ideology

Required
- Lee (2009)

Supplemental
- Hinich and Munger (1996)
- Denzau and North (1994)
- Gerring (2001)
- Noel (2007) or similar

11/28 Student presentations
12/5 Student presentations
TBA Paper due on date of final
References


American Political Parties Overview

Definition

Political Parties – A group of political activists who organize to win elections, operate the government, and determine public policy.

Functions

- Candidate Recruitment
  - Parties need to find viable candidates for a whole range of elected positions at the federal and state level.
  - Obstacles to recruitment include: time, privacy, finances, prospects.

- Organizing and Running Elections
  - Providing resources for candidates.
  - Providing ideas for candidates.

Evolution of the American Party System

Definition

Political Parties – The United States has two major national political parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Although the parties contest presidential elections every four years and have national party organizations, between elections they are often little more than loose alliances of state and local party organizations. Other parties have occasionally challenged the Democrats and Republicans. In order to win a national election, a party must appeal to a broad base of voters and a wide spectrum of interests. The two major parties have tended to adopt centrist political programs, and sometimes there are only minor differences between them on major issues, especially those related to foreign affairs.