

Department of Political Science
POSC261: American Political Institutions-Political Parties
Fall Quarter 2015

Contact Information

Course Instructor: Professor Jennifer Merolla
Office: Watkins Hall 2222
Phone: 951-827-4612
E-mail: merolla@ucr.edu
Office hours: Thursdays, 1:00 to 2:00, or by appointment

Course Schedule

Semester: Fall 2015
Meeting day, time: Thursdays, 9:10-12:00
Course Location: Watkins 2145

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to the field of political parties. The course begins with a brief review of the history of political parties and theories of party formation. We then turn to realignment and one of the main functions of parties: party in the electorate. Given the increase in polarization in U.S. politics, we spend a few weeks on literature looking at polarization among the public and elites. We close by looking at another important function of parties, that is party in government. The class format is a seminar, and thus is largely based on class discussion.

Background Preparations (Prerequisites)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the major theories in political parties.
2. Critically assess the academic literature on political parties.
3. Develop an original project in one of the sub-fields of political parties.
4. Implement a successful replication.
5. Refine communication skills in seminar participation and presentations.
6. Improve writing skills in course assignments.

Course Requirements & Assignments:

1. Given the seminar format, active participation is required for this course. You will post a question for discussion to iLearn (on the discussion board) by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. You do not need to post a question if you are doing the book review presentation. Overall class participation and discussion questions: 10% of the grade.
2. There will be several short writing assignments throughout the course that are tied to the reading in a given week. Each assignment should be posted to the discussion board on

iLearn on the Wednesday before class by 9 a.m. The types of writing assignments are detailed below. Assignments should not exceed three double spaced pages. You should not do more than one in any week. Each is worth 10% of your grade.

- i. A detailed critique of one of the journal articles or book chapters in a given week.
 - ii. An essay that highlights important themes or areas of commonality and difference across the readings in a given week.
 - iii. An essay that discusses potential future research projects for the topic in a given week.
2. A book review and presentation of one book that is listed in the syllabus. The review should be posted to the discussion board by Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Reviews should not exceed five double spaced pages: 15% of the grade.
3. Preparation of a research design pertaining to one of the topics we cover. Students will present their design to the class on November 12th or November 19th, and the final design will be due on November 25th. The paper should not exceed 20 double spaced pages, including appendices and references. Paper and presentation: 20% of the grade.
4. Replication Assignment. This assignment requires you to write a paper replicating the analysis conducted in a recent journal article relevant to the course. Specifically, working in groups or on your own, you will identify an article, obtain the data used by the author, and write a paper presenting the results you obtained. This paper will update the literature from that work, note whether or not you were able to replicate the author's findings and discuss how you might build on their research in future work. You will turn in the paper and present the replication to the class on December 10th. The replication will count for 25% of your grade.

Texts and Journal References

- Aldrich, John A. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Green, Donald, Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Hofstadter, Richard. 1969. *The Idea of a Party System*. University of California Press.
- Levendusky, Matthew. 2009. *The Partisan Sort*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sinclair, Barbara. 2006, *Party Wars: Polarization and the Politics of National Policy Making*. University of Oklahoma Press.

Journal articles and other book chapters are listed in the list of weekly readings section. Unless otherwise stated, journal articles can be accessed through the library website. Chapters from other books will be available on iLearn.

Course Policies:

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must notify the professor. Unapproved absences or late attendance for two or more classes may result in a lower grade or an “incomplete” for the course.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you guidance. If I suspect a violation of academic integrity, I will meet with the student and report the incident to the Graduate Division. *Additional information on UCR academic honesty is available at:* (http://graduate.ucr.edu/academic_integrity.html).

Instructor Feedback and Communication

The best way to get in touch with me is via email. I will respond to email within two business days. If you do not hear from me in two business days, please re-send your message since it may have gone into spam mail.

Expectations and Logistics

The class format is a seminar, and thus is largely based on class discussion. It is expected that you will have completed and thought carefully about the reading before attending class. It is incumbent on every participant in the class (instructor and students alike) to maintain an environment conducive to learning. We should always remember that people bring differences with them into the classroom and that these differences should be respected. It is imperative that each of us maintain civility and professionalism when asking questions and making comments.

Since this is a seminar, participants should be talking to each other, rather than to computer screens. Typing away on a computer can be distracting to the conversation, so keep it to a minimum. It is expected that you are not using the computer for other activities during class (e.g. checking your face book page).

Please respect your fellow classmates—be on time, don't be disruptive, turn off your cell phones, and really listen to them.

Short assignment papers and discussion questions should be uploaded to the discussion section of iLearn, while the research design and replication should be printed out and submitted to the instructor. Late assignments will lose 1/3 of a grade each day they are late, unless there is a documented emergency.

I will post information for the course on the iLearn page. Please check it often.

List of Weekly Readings

September 24th: Organizational Meeting

APSA Committee on Political Parties. 1950. "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System."
American Political Science Review 44(3), supplement: 1-14.

Kirkpatrick, Evron M. 1971. "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System?: Political Science, Policy Science, or Pseudo-Science?" *American Political Science Review* 65: 965-990.

October 1: The History of Parties

Federalist 10 and 51. Available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>.

Washington's Farewell Address. Available at http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp
Hofstadter, entire

Book Review

John Gerring, *Party Ideologies in America*.

October 8th: Theories of Party Formation

Aldrich, Chapters 1-6

Hoadley, John F. 1980. "The Emergence of Political Parties in Congress, 1789 – 1803."
American Political Science Review. 74:757-779.

Formisano, Ronald. P. 1999. "The "Party Period" Revisited." *Journal of American History*,
86:93-120.

Book Review

Key, V.O. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*.

October 15th: Realignment

Key, V.O. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." *Journal of Politics* 17: 3-18.

Key, V.O. "Secular Realignment and the Party System." 1959. *Journal of Politics* 21: 198-210.

Nardulli, Peter F. 1995. "The Concept of a Critical Realignment, Electoral Behavior, and Political Change." *American Political Science Review* 89: 10-22.

David W. Mayhew. 2000. "Electoral Realignments." *Annual Review of Political Science* 3: 449-74.

Valentino, Nicholas A. and David O. Sears. 2005. "Old Times There are not Forgotten: Race and Partisan Realignment in the Contemporary South." *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 672-688.

Aldrich, Chapters 6-9

Book Review

Burnham, Walter Dean. *Critical Elections and the Main Springs of American Politics*.

Petrocik, John R. *Party Coalitions: Realignments and the Decline of the New Deal Party System*.

Sundquist, James L. *Dynamics of the Party System*.

*Carmines, Edward G. and James A. Stimson. *Issue Evolution*.

October 22nd: Party in the Electorate I

Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, Chapters 7 and 8

Campbell et al, *The American Voter*, Chapters 6 and 7

Green, Palmquist, and Schickler, entire

Book Review

Marty Cohen, David Karol, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2008. *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*. University of Chicago Press.

October 29th: Party in the Electorate II

Rahn, Wendy M. 1993. "The Role of Partisan Stereotypes in Information Processing about Political Candidates." *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 472-496.

Bartels, Larry. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Lau, Richard R and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 45 (No. 4): 951-971.

Fiorina, Morris P. 2002. "Parties and Partisanship: A 40 Year Retrospective." *Political Behavior*. 24: 93-115.

Burden, Barry C. and Casey A. Klofstad. 2005. "Affect and Cognition in Party Identification." *Political Psychology*. 26: 869-886.

Kam, Cindy D. 2005. "Who Ties the Party Line? Cues, Values, and Individual Differences." *Political Behavior* 27:163-182.

Huddy, Leonie, Lilliana Mason, and Lene Aaroe. 2015. "Expressive Partisanship: Campaign Involvement, Political Emotion, and Partisan Identity." *American Political Science Review* 1: 1-17.

Book Review

Popkin, Samuel. 1994. *The Reasoning Voter*. University of Chicago Press.

November 5th: Out of town, Make up Class during Exam week

November 12th: Polarization I

Levendusky, entire

Hetherington, Marc. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review*. 95:619-631.

Layman, Geoffrey C., Thomas M. Carsey, and Juliana Menasce Horowitz. 2006. "Party Polarization in American Politics: Characteristics, Causes, and Consequences." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9:83-110.

Mason, Lilliana. 2014. "I Respectfully Disagree: The Differential Effects of Sorting on Social and Issue Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59(1): 128-145.

Book Review

Fiorina, Morris P. *Culture War? The Myth of Polarized America*, 2nd Ed.

Abramowitz, Alan. *The Disappearing Center: Engaged Citizens, Polarization, and American Democracy*

November 19th: Polarization II

Sinclair, all

Fleisher, Richard and Jon R. Bond. 2004. "The Shrinking Middle in Congress." *British Journal of Political Science* 34:492-51.

Theriault, Sean M. 2006. "Party Polarization in the US Congress: Member Replacement and

Member Adaptation.” *Party Politics*, 12:483-503.
Hill, Seth and Chris Tausanovitch. 2015. “A Disconnect in Representation? Comparison of Trends in Congressional and Public Polarization.” *Journal of Politics*.

Book Review

Theriault, Sean M., *Party Polarization in Congress*

November 26th: Thanksgiving

December 3rd: Party in Government

Smith, Steven S. 2000. “Positive Theories of Congressional Parties.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 25:193-215.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. “Where’s the Party?” *British Journal of Political Science* 23:235-266.

Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1994. “Bonding, Structure, and the Stability of Political Parties.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 19:215-231.

Aldrich, John H. and David W. Rohde. 2000. “The Republican Revolution and the House Appropriations Committee.” *Journal of Politics* 62:1-33.

Roberts, Jason M. and Steven S. Smith. 2003. “Procedural Contexts, Party Strategy, and Conditional Party Voting in the US House of Representatives, 1971-2000.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47:305-317.

Carroll, Royce, and Henry A. Kim. 2010. “Party Government and the ‘Cohesive Power of Public Plunder.’” *American Journal of Political Science* 54: 34-44.

Jenkins, Jeffrey and Nathan Monroe. 2014. “Negative Agenda Control and the Conservative Coalition in the U.S. House.” *Journal of Politics* 76: 1116-1127.

Book Review

Cox and McCubbins, *Legislative Leviathan*

December 10th: Presentations

Recommended Additional Readings

Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. “Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted.” *American Political Science Review* 99: 153-168.

Beck, Paul Allen and M. Kent Jennings. 1991. “Family Traditions, Political Periods, and the Development of Partisan Orientations.” *Journal of Politics* 53: 742-763.

Binder, Sarah A. 1996. “The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990.”

Brady, David W. 1985. “A Reevaluation of Realignments in American Politics: Evidence from the House of Representatives.” *American Political Science Review* 79: 28-49.

Carson, Jamie L., Nathan W. Monroe, and Gregory Robinson. 2010. “Unpacking Agenda Control in Congress: Individual Roll Rates and the Republican Revolution.” *Political Research Quarterly*.

Coleman, John J. 1997. “The Decline and Resurgence of Congressional Party Conflict.” *Journal of Politics* 59:165-184.

Cox, Gary W. and Eric Magar. 1999. “How Much is Majority Status in the US Congress Worth?” *American Political Science Review* 93:299-309.

Fiorina, Morris. 1977. “A Outline for a Model of Party Choice.” *American Journal of Political Science*: 601-625.

- Franklin, Charles H. and John E. Jackson. 1983. "The Dynamics of Party Identification." *American Political Science Review*. 957-973.
- Goren, Paul. 2005. "Party Identification and Core Political Values." *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 881-896.
- Jacoby, William G. 1988. "The Impact of Party Identification on Issue Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 32:643-661.
- Jennings, M. Kent and Gregory B. Markus. 1984. "Partisan Orientations over the Long Haul: Results from the Three-Wave Political Socialization Panel Study." *American Political Science Review* 78: 1000-1018.
- Johnston, Richard. 2006. "Party Identification: Unmoved Mover or Sum of Preferences?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9:329-351.
- Luskin, Robert C., John P. McIver and Edward G. Carmines. 1989. "Issues and the Transmission of Partisanship." *American Journal of Political Science* 33: 440-458.
- MacKuen, Erikson, and Stimson. 1989. "Macropartisanship." *American Political Science Review* 83: 1125-1142.
- Marcus, George E. and Michael B. Mackuen. 1993. "Anxiety, Enthusiasm and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement During Presidential Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 87: 672-685.
- Miller, Gary and Norman Schofield. 2003. "Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 97: 245-260.
- Nie Verba and Petrocik, *The Changing American Voter*
- Schaffner, Brian F. and Matthew J. Streb (2002), The Partisan Heuristic in Low-Information Elections, *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66 (4): 559-581.
- Schickler, Eric and Andrew Rich. 1997. "Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House." *American Journal of Political Science* 41:1340-1375.
- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins 1997. "Toward a Theory of Legislative Rules Changes: Assessing Schickler and Rich's Evidence." *American Journal of Political Science* 41:1376-1386.
- Schickler, Eric and Andrew Rich. 1997. "Party Government in the House Reconsidered: A Response to Cox and McCubbins." *American Journal of Political Science* 41:1387-1394.
- Sinclair, Barbara Deckard. "Party Realignment and the Transformation of the Political Agenda: The House of Representatives, 1925-1938." *American Political Science Review* 71:940-953.