**Course Overview and Objectives:**
This course is designed to give you an understanding of how American political parties have functioned throughout history. Though we will discuss the history of the major parties, the majority of the course will be focused on how parties operate today. We will periodically discuss how the parties are (or are not) dealing with the Trump’s presidency. You will also be responsible for “representing” a US political party (major or minor) throughout the course. This means you will occasionally provide the class with updates on how your party is reacting (or should be reacting, theoretically) to the current political climate. You will also have a final paper that compares the 2016 election to a previous election in the context of party politics to ensure that you understand the current system and how it differs from older systems.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
By the end of this course you should be able to:
- Identify and explain the historical development and contemporary structure of American political parties
- Evaluate the evolution, functioning and consequences of parties in the United States
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills related to parties in the Unites States
- Demonstrate an analytical, social-scientific disposition toward American politics

**Grading Breakdown by Percentage:**
- 5 % Party Assignment Overview Paper
- 10% Glossary Assignment
- 15 % 3 Press Releases (5% each)
- 15% Annotated Bibliography
- 25 % Participation & Attendance
- 30% Final Paper

**Glossary Assignment**
Throughout the semester you will record informative and interesting keywords in party politics and define them in a “Glossary” that you will turn in with your final paper on the last day of class. These keywords will come from the homework readings and class lectures to ensure that you know important terms and concepts.

*Ex: Mugwumps (from Plunkitt of Tammany Hall reading):* A nickname for people who opposed the patronage system and corruption in the party machine era during the Gilded age. The name originated from earlier Republicans who split off from the party and supported Democrat Grover Cleveland.

**Party Simulation Assignments**
Everyone will be assigned to play a role as a representative from one of the major parties or minor American parties. Some people will overlap- that’s okay. Your first short paper will be a factual overview of your party, its philosophy and its successes or failures. You will also write 3 “press releases” (1 page each, single spaced) from your party that respond to real world political events. This
means you must be keeping up with every day American politics. You may submit press releases whenever you want, but at least TWO must come in before Spring Break. Your release will be posted on OAKS and any other parties may respond to it in class the next time we meet. Lengthier instructions to come.

**Major Paper**
At the end of the semester you will turn in a final research paper that examines parties in the current context and compares them to parties in the past (prior to 2016). An annotated bibliography will be required as the first step in this process to ensure you are collecting appropriate sources for a research paper. Lengthier instructions to come.

**Grading Scale for Final Semester Grades**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-88</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-84</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>74-69</td>
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<td>68-60</td>
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<td>60-40</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>39-0</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Late Assignments, Incompletes, Extensions:** Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late including weekends. The **5% rule kicks in immediately after class begins when an assignment is due**. There will be no make-up exams and I will not grant incompletes in the course, except in cases of emergency or where university policy applies. Doctor’s notes are expected for medical excuses.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance and participation counts towards 25% of your grade. This is **SUBSTANTIAL**. Attendance will be taken during the first month or so of class to make sure that students are showing up, per the school’s attendance verification policy. Periodically skipping class will be noticed and will result in poor grades. It happens every semester. If you are the type of person who shows up to class only once in a while, take a different course.

**Office Hours:** Having trouble? Have questions? Come on by. I promise it will be helpful.

**Laptop Policy:** No laptops in class. Trust me, you will learn more this way!

**Syllabus Policy:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary.

**Course Evaluation Statement:** You will have the opportunity to evaluate the course towards the end of the semester through an online evaluation system. I will remind you to bring laptops that day so they can be done during the final class.

**Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit. Details will be given at a later date.
Part 1: History of the Parties


Friday January 11: How Did We Get Here?
- *Why I’m Leaving the Senate by Evan Bayh (D)*
- *Why I’m Leaving the Senate by Olympia Snow (R)*
- *Enough. It’s Time to Stand Up to Trump by Jeff Flake (R)*

Monday January 14: The First Party System (1792-1824)
- *Federalist Paper #10 by Madison*

- *Life of the Parties Chapters 4-5*
- *3rd Party Selection Day*

Friday January 18: The Third Party System (1856-1894)
- *Life of the Parties Chapter 6*

Monday January 21: MLK DAY. NO CLASS

Wed. January 23: Third Party System: Gilded Age and Party Bosses
- *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall (following sections):*
  *Intro (PDF ONLINE), Dishonest and Honest Graft, How to Become a Statesman, The Curse of Civil Service Reform, To Hold Your District: Study Human Nature Accordingly, Reciprocity in Patronage, Tammany Leaders Not Bookworms, Concerning Gas in Politics, Bosses Preserve the Nation, A Parting Word on the Future of the Democratic Party, Strenuous Life of the Tammany District Leader*
  *https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/plunkett-george/tammany-hall/#s03 *
- *Boss Trump: https://theweek.com/articles/695758/boss-trump*

Friday January 25: The Fourth Party System (1896-1932)
- *V.O Key’s “Theory of Critical Elections”*

Monday January 28: The Fifth Party System (1932-....?)
- *CHECK OAKS.*

- *No reading*

Friday Feb 1: Current Party Systems II
The Contemporary Parties Are Networked

Monday Feb 4: ***Gathering of the Parties I***
- FIRST PAPER DUE. Be prepared to tell the class about your party and answer questions about its philosophy and generalities about its issue positions.

Part 2: Parties in Congress

Wednesday Feb 6: Structure of Parties in Congress: Caucuses
- Got a General Hobby or Interest? There’s a Congressional Caucus for That!

Friday Feb 8: Conditional Party Government
- No reading

Monday Feb 11: Conditional Party Government
- Reform and Its Consequences: A Closer Look (The Post-Reform House Chapter 2)

Wed Feb 13: Legislative Leviathan (Procedural Cartel Theory)
- No reading

Friday Feb 15: Voting the Party Line
- Two Senators Willing to Defy the Party Line
- Members of Congress Who Vote Against the Party

Monday Feb 18: The Tea Party Emergence in Congress
- ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

Part 3: The Party and Elections: Playing to Win

Wed Feb 20: Understanding the Primary System
- Everything You Need to Know about how the Presidential Primary Works

Friday Feb 22: Parties and Primaries I
- The Party Decides Chapter 6- Mastering the Reformed System

Monday Feb 25: Parties and Primaries II
- The Party Decides Chapter 7- 8 (The Invisible Primary and Anatomy of a Conversation)

Wed Feb 27: Parties and Primaries III: 2016 and 2020 Elections
- Hillary Clinton’s Grip on the Invisible Primary
- Joe Biden Ran in the Invisible Primary
- The 2020 Invisible Primary in Light of 2016: https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2019/1/7/18170894/2020-invisible-primary-2016-democrats

Friday March 1: Parties as Gatekeepers
• How Democracies Die Chapter 2-4

Monday March 4: Parties and the General Election
• No reading

Wed March 6: **Gathering of the Parties II**
• Come prepared to discuss your party’s position on the current political climate

Friday March 8: Gerrymandering
• Reading TBD

Part 4: Third Parties

Monday March 11: Explaining 3rd Parties
• Could a Third Party Win the Presidency? That’s Very Unlikely:
• Third Parties in America: Citizen Response to Major Party Failure

Wed. March 13: Public Mentality Towards 3rd Parties
• No reading

Friday March 15: Third Party Success Stories
• Explaining 3rd Party Successes in Gubernatorial Elections

😊 !!!Monday March 18- Friday March 22 Spring Break!!! 😊

Monday March 25: Third Parties in the 2016 Election
• Frozen Out
• Third Party Candidates Lose Legal Fight
• Third Parties Faded into the Background in a Shocking Election

Part 5: Polarization

Wed March 27: Ideology- What It Is
• Check OAKS

Friday March 29: Elite Polarization I
• Causes and Consequences of Polarization (until the bottom of page 35 where it says Consequences of Polarization)

Monday April 1: Elite Polarization II
• Causes and Consequences of Polarization (from the bottom of 35 where it says “Consequences of Polarization until the end)

Wed April 3: Public Polarization- It’s Not Happening
• Culture War: The Myth of Polarized America
Friday April 5: Public Polarization- It’s Happening
  • *Is Polarization a Myth?*

Monday April 8: Ideological Republicans and Interest Group Democrats
  • *No reading*

**Part 6: The Party in the Mass Public**

Wed April 10: Partisanship and How It’s Measured
  • *Independent Politics Chapters 1-2*

Friday April 12: Partisanship as a Social Identity
  • *No reading*

Monday April 15: Partisanship as a Social Identity: Consequences
  • *Politics and Pizza*
  • *Politics Makes Us Stupid*

Wed. April 17: *Gathering of the Parties III*
  • *Come prepared to discuss your party’s position on the current political climate*

Friday April 19: Affective Polarization and Partisan Prejudice
  • *Affect, Not Ideology by Iyengar, Sood and Lelkes*
  • *If Liberals Hate Trump Then He Must be Doing Something Right:*

Monday April 22: Negative Partisanship
  • *No reading*

Tuesday April 23: *What Can We Do?* FINAL DAY OF CLASS.
*YES, WE HAVE CLASS ON TUESDAY, PER THE SCHOOL’S NEW SPRING SCHEDULE.*
  • *GLOSSARY IS DUE TODAY*
  • *We will have an open and honest discussion about the state of American political parties, affective polarization and what we can do going forward*