

**Political Science (PSCI) 4100.01**  
**Political Parties**  
**Fall 2011**

Dr. John Ishiyama  
Office: 166 Wooten Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:00 p.m. and by appointment  
Office Phone: 565-4326  
John.Ishiyama@unt.edu

*There is a blackboard vista site for this course where copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus and some assigned readings).*

**I. Introduction:** Modern democracy is above all party democracy. Parties organize electoral choices and ensure that popular priorities get translated into government policy. Mass democracies cannot do without them. This makes it important to examine what they are, what they do, how they change, and what impact they have on the operation of democracy.

This course examines political parties from a **comparative perspective**. Although we will discuss the emergence and development of American political parties *extensively*, the primary focus will be on examining political parties *globally*. By doing so, this will provide the student with important insights as to why the US party system developed in the way that it did.

The course is divided into four parts (indicated by the roman numerals in the syllabus)

- What are political parties, what are their functions, and how are they organized?
  - Topics: definitional issues; how parties related to the political system; various types of parties
- Party Systems and Party change
  - Topics: types of party systems; factors that structure the party system
- What Affects Party Change?
  - Topics: institutional, cultural, ideological effects on party change;
- What are the Effects of Political Parties?
  - Topics: effects on the electorate; campaigning; governance; conflict

An additional primary goal of this course is to promote the analytical skills of the student. This involves not only exposure to the practice of conducting analysis (such as explaining why something occurs) but also the ability to apply academic learning to real world problems. To help cultivate such skills this course will be centered on a group based, experiential learning exercise- an in class simulation that will simulate the formulation of a party platform/manifesto, campaign, and the processes of coalition government formation.

In the real world, people collaborate to solve problems-- collaboration is a skill. To promote active student collaboration, during the course of the term there will be a collaborative experiential learning exercise, in which students, working together as a "party", will put together a party platform (presenting this to the class) and then be charged with participating in a coalition government formation simulation after the "election" is held. Presentation of the party programs will begin after Spring Break. More information will be provided once the class roster has stabilized (meaning after the period of free add/drops) and the party/groups are formed

There will also be an individual paper assignment in which students will choose one political party (outside of the two major parties in the United States) OR a party system (outside of the United States) and be asked to provide a research report on that party or party system. **NO GROUP PAPER IS REQUIRED ONLY AN INDIVIDUAL PAPER.**

**II. Texts:**

There are two required texts for this course:

- Marjorie Randon Hershey. 2009. *Party Politics in America 13<sup>th</sup> edition* New York: Pearson (denoted = Hershey)
- Peter Mair editor. 1990 (2009). *The West European Party System* Oxford: Oxford University Press (denoted = Mair)

There will be additional readings that will be available via the blackboard site (indicated on syllabus as BB)

**III. University of North Texas--Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Academic Integrity. (See UNT Policy 18.1.16 at [http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT\\_Policy/volume3/18\\_1\\_16.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT_Policy/volume3/18_1_16.pdf))

**Categories of Academic Dishonesty.**

**Cheating.** The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

- use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
- dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
- acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
- dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
- any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

**Plagiarism.** Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:

- the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
- the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

**Forgery.** Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.

**Fabrication.** Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.

**Facilitating Academic Dishonesty.** Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.

**Sabotage.** Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

**Available Academic Penalties**

The following academic penalties may be assessed at the instructor’s discretion upon determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable.

**Admonition.** The student may be issued a verbal or written warning.

**Assignment of Educational Coursework.** The student may be required to perform additional coursework not required of other students in the specific course.

**Partial or no credit for an assignment or assessment.** The instructor may award partial or no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic dishonesty, to be calculated into the final course grade.

**IV. University of North Texas-Statement of ADA Compliance:**

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second Day of classes).

**V. Course Requirements:**

There will be three major exams scheduled for this term. The first is scheduled for October 4 and is worth 100 points. The second is scheduled for November 3 and is worth 100 points. The third is the final examination (scheduled for December 15) is worth 125 points and is a comprehensive examination.

In addition there will be one major written paper assignments due on the final day of the term (December 16 by 5:00 pm)

Further, the student’s participation in the simulations will be assessed **NO GROUP PAPER IS REQUIRED ONLY AN INDIVIDUAL PAPER.**

Finally the student’s attendance and general participation in the course will account for 25 points

In sum:

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|---|---------------------|
| 1) <b>First exam</b>                        | <b>= 100 points</b> |
| 2) <b>Second exam</b>                       | <b>= 100 points</b> |
| 3) <b>Final exam</b>                        | <b>= 125 points</b> |
| 4) <b>Individual Party Research Paper</b>   | <b>= 75 points</b>  |
| 5) <b>Participation in Party Simulation</b> | <b>= 50 points</b>  |
| 6) <b>Attendance/general participation</b>  | <b>= 25 points</b>  |

**Total points =475 points**

**THE STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION AT THE SCHEDULED TIME AND DATE. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**VI. Course Objectives**

By the end of the course you should:

- Know a lot about parties and the democracies they operate in, but especially in Europe which has the greatest variety of functioning parties in the World.
- Have reviewed all the main explanations for party and party systems development
- Be able to offer reasoned judgments on the workings of party democracy across the world.

**VII. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:**

**I. What are political parties, what are their functions, and how are they organized?**

August 25-30 Introduction: What are political parties and their role in the political system?

Readings: Hershey chp. 1

**NO CLASS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1 (WILL BE AT A CONFERENCE)**

September 6-8: What are the functions of political parties?

1) Structural Functional Approach to Political System

Readings: David Easton, "Categories for the Systems Analysis of Politics" (BB)

Almond, Gabriel Almond "A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics" (BB)

2) Functions of the Political Party

Readings: Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond "Types and functions of political parties" pp. 3-

7 (BB)

September 13-20: Types of political parties

1) Historical Types of Political Parties: Elite/Cadre Parties

Readings: Mair chps 1, 3, 4 (Lapalombara and Weiner, Duverger, Neumann)

2) Catchall and Cartel parties

Readings: Mair chp 5 (Kirchheimer)

Richard Katz and Peter Mair "Changing Models of Party Organization And Party Democracy: The Cartel Parties" (BB)

3) Current types of Political Parties

Readings: Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond "Species Of Political Parties" (BB)

Peter Mair and Cas Mudde "The Party Family and its Study" (BB)

September 22-29 Parties as Organizations

1) Comparative Perspectives

Readings: Peter Mair "Party Organizations: From Civil Society to the State" (BB)

Ingrid van Biezen "On The Internal Balance of Party Power" (BB)

**September 27: Meet with Party Members (IN CLASS)**

2) American Parties

Readings: Hershey chps 3-5

**OCTOBER 4 (FIRST EXAM)**

**II. Party Systems and Party change**

October 6-13 Party systems: Comparative Perspectives

1) Types of Party Systems

Readings: Mair Chps. 20,21, 22, 24 (Duverger, Dahl, Blondel, Sartori)

2) What factors affect the structuring of party systems?  
Readings: Mair chps 7, 8,9 , 11 (Sartori, Daalder, Lipset and Rokkan, Sartori)

3) History of the American System  
Readings: Hershey chps. 2, 7

### **III. What Affects Party Change?**

October 18-20 (Party 1 presents program October 20)

1) Party systems change

Readings: Mair chps 12, 13, 14, 15 (Rose and Urwin, Pedersen, Mair, Wolinetz)

2) Institutional effects

Readings:

Maurice Duverger, "Which is the Best Electoral System" (BB)

Enid Lakeman, "The Case for Proportional Representation" (BB)

Juan Linz "The Perils of Presidentialism" (BB)

John Ishiyama and Ryan Kennedy "Superpresidentialism and Political Party Development in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan"(BB)

October 25-27 (Party 2 presents program)

3) Cultural and Ideological Effects

Readings: Mair Chps, 16, 17, 19 (Flanagan and Dalton, Inglehart, Inglehart)

Robert Ladrech, "Europeanization and Political Parties" (BB)

John Ishiyama and Sahar Shafqat "Party identity change in post-communist Politics" (BB)

### **NOVEMBER 3 (SECOND EXAM)**

#### **IV. What are the effects of Political Parties?**

November 8-10 (Party 3 Presents Program on November 10)

1) The effects of parties on political processes: the electorate

Readings: Hershey chp 6-8

Pippa Norris "Political Parties and Democracy In Theoretical and Practical Perspectives" (BB)

2) The effects of political parties on candidate recruitment

Readings: Hershey Chp 9-10

November 15-17 (Party 4 Presents Program on November 17)

3) Campaigning and Party in Government

Readings: Hershey chps 11-13, 15

November 22 (Party 5 Presents Program)

3) Party in Government (continued)

### **Thanksgiving Break November 24-27**

November 29- December 1 (Party 6 Presents Program December 1)

4) Party effects on integration and conflict

Readings: Kanchan Chandra "Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability" (BB)

John Ishiyama "Do Ethnic Parties Promote Minority Ethnic Conflict?" (BB)

December 6-8 (Coalition Government Simulation Exercise)

**Final Exam: Thursday December 15, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Final Papers due Friday December 16, 5:00 pm**