American Political Parties  
T 5:45-8:35 pm  
HS 13

Course Description
This seminar will examine the relationship between the development/decay of party systems and popular government. Our approach will be historical and theoretical, looking at the emergence and development of party systems, the explicit and implicit rationales undergirding partisan alignments, the emergence, development, and role of third parties, the emergence and implications of the rise of southern Republicans, the forces underlying party decomposition, the role of money, the role of race, and alternative representational systems.

Required Readings

Books
Kathleen L. Barber, A Right to Representation: Proportional Election Systems for the Twenty-First Century
Earl Black and Merle Black, The Rise of Southern Republicans
Paul Frymer, Uneasy Alliances, Race and Party Competition in America
J. David Gillespie, Politics at the Periphery
Richard Hofstadter, The Idea of a Party System
Peter Kobrak, Cozy Politics: Political Parties, Campaign Finance, and Compromised Governance
Michael J. Malbin, ed. The Election After Reform: Money, Politics and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act
David R. Mayhew, Electoral Realignments, A Critique of an American Genre

Articles and Book Chapters

Search by Author and Title.
*Alan DiGaetano, “The Democratic Party and City Politics in the Postindustrial Era,” In Frances Fox Piven, ed., Labor Parties in Postindustrial Societies
*Frances Fox Piven, “Structural Constraints and Political Development: The Case of the American Democratic Party,” In Frances Fox Piven, ed., Labor Parties in Postindustrial Societies
* = Available as PDF on Blackboard.

Course Requirements
1. Class participation, 30%. Class participation will have two components. One will be weekly, one-page reaction papers in which you will note and comment on key points in the week’s readings. The second component will consist of the student’s participation in class discussions. Individual participation will consist of student presentation of their questions/views as well as commentary on the questions/views of others.
2. Research paper and presentation of findings in class, 70%.
3. Students enrolled in POS 534R will write a review essay instead of a research paper.
4. Both the research paper and the review essay will be due the last day of classes or the day scheduled for a final exam for this class.

Office Hours
Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, HU B16; 4:00-5:00 pm Milne 219
Also by appointment. E-mail: conga@albany.edu.

Course Outline and Readings
8/30 - I. Introduction
9/6 - II. History
Richard Hofstadter, The Idea of a Party System
9/13 - III. Theory
9/20 - IV. Realignment
David R. Mayhew, Electoral Realignments, A Critique of an American Genre
9/27 - V. Party Reform and Transformation
Earl Black and Merle Black, The Rise of Southern Republicans;
10/4 - Jeffrey S. Walz and John Comer, “State Responses to National Democratic Party Reform;”
Frances Fox Piven, “Structural Constraints and Political Development: The Case of the
American Democratic Party.”
10/11 - VI. Third Parties
J. David Gillespie, Politics at the Periphery; Jeffrey Koch, “The Perot Candidacy and Attitudes
toward Government and Politics.”
10/18 - VII. Party Decline
Democratic Party and City Politics in the Postindustrial Era.”
10/25 - VIII. Representation
Kathleen L. Barber, A Right to Representation: Proportional Election Systems for the Twenty-
First Century
11/1 - IX. Race
Paul Frymer, Uneasy Alliances, Race and Party Competition in America; Charles D. Hadley,
“Blacks in Southern Politics: An Agenda for Research;” Louis Bolce, Gerald DeMaio, and
11/8 - X. Campaign Finance
Michael J. Malbin, ed. The Election After Reform: Money, Politics and the Bipartisan
Campaign Reform Act.
Peter Kobrak, Cozy Politics: Political Parties, Campaign Finance, and Compromised Governance
Responsiveness;” Everett Carl Ladd, “Party Reform and the Public Interest;” John R. Hibbing
and Elizabethe Theiss-Morse, “Too Much of a Good Thing: More Representative is not
Necessarily Better;” Juan J. Linz, “Parties in Contemporary Democracies: Problems and
Paradoxes”
12/6 – Paper presentations, wrap-up

Recommended Readings
John Herbert Aldrich, Why Parties?: The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in
America
American Political Science Association, “Toward a More responsible Party System,” A Report
of the Committee on Political Parties, American Political Science Review 44 (September 1950).
Walter Dean Burnham, Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Democracy
Chambers and Walter Dean Burnham, eds. The American Party Systems
Mayer, ed., In Pursuit of the White House
Gary W. Cox and Mathew D. McCubbins, Setting the Agenda, Responsible Party Government in
the U.S. House of Representatives
Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther, eds., Political Parties and Democracy
Anthony Downs, Economic Theory of Democracy
Maurice Duverger, Political Parties
John Frendreis, "Voters, Government Officials, and Party Organizations: Connections and
Distinctions," Shea and Green, The State of the Parties
Jeffrey D. Grnnavisky, Partisan Bonds: Political Reputations and Legislative Accountability
Richard Gunther, José Ramón Montero, and Juan J. Linz, Political Parties, Old Concepts and New Challenges
David Karol, Party Position Change in American Politics: Coalition Management
Jeane Kirkpatrick, Dismantling the Parties
Theodore J. Lowi, "Toward a Responsible Three-Party System," Daniel M. Shea and John C. Green, The State of the Parties
David B. Magleby, ed., Financing the 2000 Election
Michael Malbin, The Day After Reform: Sobering Campaign Finance Lessons from the American States
Robert Michels, Political Parties
Moisei Ostrogorski, Democracy and the Party System in the United States
Angelo Panebianco, Political Parties: Organization and Power
Nelson Polsby, Consequences of Party Reform
Steven J. Rosenstone, et al. Third Parties in America, Citizen Response to Major Party Failure
Giovanni Sartori, Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis
E.E. Schattschneider, Party Government
E.E. Schattschneider, The Semi-Sovereign People
Byron Shafer, The End of Realignment?
Byron Shafer, The Quiet Revolution: The Struggle for the Democratic Party and the Shaping of Post Reform Politics
Alan Ware, Citizens, Parties, and the State
Alan Ware, Political Parties and Party Systems
Alan Ware, The Logic of Party Democracy
Martin Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties
Paul Webb, david Farrell, and Ian Holliday, Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies