

# Party Realignment in American Politics

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COURSE INFORMATION	<i>Term:</i> Spring 2020 <i>Level:</i> Advanced Seminar <i>Meet:</i> Tuesdays 2:30-5:20 <i>Room:</i> CHL 221 <i>Syllabus Revision:</i> January 23, 2020	<i>Instructor:</i> Jack Reilly <i>Office:</i> Social Sciences 205 <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:jreilly@ncf.edu">jreilly@ncf.edu</a> <i>Office Hours:</i> F TBD and by appt <i>Appointments:</i> <a href="http://jackltreilly.com/appointments">jackltreilly.com/appointments</a>
DESCRIPTION	This advanced seminar will examine the ways that governing coalitions in American politics have aligned and re-aligned since the New Deal. How did the Republican Party take over the south and the Democratic Party take over the coasts? Why do we see such different politics in urban, suburban, and rural America? What trends in party alignment have we seen in the last 70 years, and what trends might we expect to see in the next 30? In particular, we will focus on the last 20 years of American politics, and will touch on a number of topics, including realignment theory, elections, political liberalism, the rise of modern conservatism, the politics of the south, polarization, extremism, partisanship, race, class, gender, religion, and others. <i>Course Cap:</i> 14	
PREREQUISITE	An introductory course in political science (preferably Introduction to American Politics), and intermediate work in political science or American history, or permission of the instructor.	
INTEREST SURVEY	If you want to take the class, let me know why here! <a href="http://jackltreilly.com/interest">http://jackltreilly.com/interest</a>	

## Materials

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BOOKS	<b>Required</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayhew, <i>Electoral Realignments</i></li><li>• Phillips, <i>The Emerging Republican Majority</i></li><li>• Judis and Teixeira, <i>The Emerging Democratic Majority</i></li><li>• Trende, <i>The Lost Majority</i></li><li>• Abramowitz, <i>The Great Alignment</i></li><li>• Hopkins, <i>The Increasingly United States</i></li><li>• Norris and Inglehart, <i>Cultural Backlash*</i></li></ul>
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## Course Requirements

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OVERVIEW	Satisfactory completion of the course requires completion of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Daily Participation and Reading. This is an advanced seminar taught at a graduate level. Informed class participation is required each week.</li><li>2. Discussion Questions. Submit discussion questions or points (broadly construed) to the class by 9 AM on the day of class. Please respond to the first e-mail sent out, so all responses appear in a thread, and if you are the first questioner, title your e-mail [MAR] Questions: Week X.</li></ol>
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3. Reaction Papers. Each student will write a 3-5 page reaction paper three times during the semester. This paper will be submitted to the whole class by noon the Monday before class, and should be read by other students in the class.
4. Paper Presentation and Discussion Leadership. On the weeks you write a reaction paper, you will lead class discussion. Each day there will be between two and three papers, so each day will have multiple discussion leaders.
5. Realigning Election Report. Research and report on a theoretical realigning election in Americas past (realigning elections to choose from include 1800, 1828, 1860, 1896, 1932, 1968, 1980, 1994, and 2008.) Reports include both a paper, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of that elections claim to be realigning, as well as a presentation to the class on the election itself.
6. Academic Book Review and Presentation. Read and analyze a scholarly book on modern American politics and/or partisanship. Present the argument of the book and critique the authors position. What does this book add to our understanding of the contemporary political alignment in the United States? What does it suggest the future holds for the Democrats, Republicans, liberalism, and conservatism? Should we have read this book in class? Books need to be selected from a list provided by the professor or approved by the professor as having appropriate academic merit.
7. Prognostication. A brief assignment at the end of class with predictions of party alignment in the forthcoming 2020 election, 2022, 2024, and 2036, as well as predictions on the 2020 primary season throughout the semester.

## Topics Outline

W	Topic	Main Authors	REY
1	Parties & Party Systems	Aldrich, UCLA School	
2	Realignment Theory	Sundquist, Burham, Key	
3	Critique of Realignment	Mayhew	1800
4	Theory: Demise of Liberalism	Lowi, Hartz	1828
5	The Emerging Republican Majority	Phillips	1860
6	The Emerging Democratic Majority	Judis & Teixeira	1896
7	The Lost Majority	Trende	1932
B	FALL BREAK		
8	The Great Alignment	Abramowitz	1968
9	The Increasingly United States	Hopkins	1980
10	Cultural Backlash	Norris & Inglehart, Cramer	1994
11	Public Policy & Voting	Mettler, Frank, Grossman	2008
12	BACC WEEK		
13		<i>Presentations</i>	
14		<i>Presentations</i>	
F	FINALS WEEK		

## READING

For the first week, there is no formal reading. However, for this course, I presume you already have a working knowledge of the theory of political parties. If you do not, you can crash course by reading Aldrich and Griffin, "The One Thing You Need to Know about Parties", Bawn et al, "A Theory of Political Parties", and the first chapter of Aldrich, "Why Parties? A Second Look". All are available via google scholar and google books. (In fact, even if you've already been exposed to the party theory, it's not a bad idea to review!) We'll spend a portion of our first day talking about party theory and party systems.