

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
GOVERNMENT 325
POLITICAL PARTIES

PROFESSOR DARON SHAW
SPRING 2021

Unique#:	38560/38565	Meeting Time:	T, TH 2:00-3:30
Meeting Place:	BUR 106	Office Hours:	M, W 12:00-1:30 (virtual)
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TA Office:	Virtual	Office Hours:	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the role political parties play in representative democracies. We will study the variables that distinguish party systems in different countries, the historical development of parties, and the nature of parties in contemporary democratic societies. We will also explore how parties mobilize mass populations for political purposes, as well as the character of party elites, activists and supporters.

The first three weeks of the course are largely general and theoretical. Examples are drawn from different countries to illustrate questions and arguments. The remainder of the course deals almost exclusively with the American parties.

My approach will be thematic. By studying institutions and processes that are generally characteristic of parties in democratic systems, you will recognize that many features of the American parties are a particular configuration of more general phenomena. Through the readings and lectures on the U.S. party system you will develop a conceptual and theoretical understanding of not only the American parties, but of political parties across the globe.

COURSE FORMAT

This class is a hybrid.

- I will conduct in-person lectures at the appointed times for those students who are willing and able to attend. The classroom is Burdine Hall 106; it can easily accommodate our students (80 or so) in a safe and appropriate socially distanced environment.
- I am also using the Lectures Online recording system. This system records the audio and video material presented in class for you to review after class. Links for the recordings will appear in the Lectures Online tab on the Canvas page for this class. You will find this tab along the left side navigation in Canvas.

- To review a recording, simply click on the Lectures Online navigation tab and follow the instructions presented to you on the page. You can learn more about how to use the Lectures Online system at <http://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturesonline/students/how-to-access-recordings/>.
- You can find additional information about Lectures Online at: <https://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturesonline/>.

Class meetings run approximately 80 minutes and rely on a lecture format. However, I ask questions of the class and may call on students at random. On the other side of the lectern, questions and observations are always encouraged. I try to recognize those raising their hand to ask a question as soon as possible. Keep in mind that the lectures parallel, but do not repeat the readings. Because of this, not attending class (either in-person or virtually) is a particularly bad practice.

Anyone having difficulty with the course should feel free to see me after class or in office hours or via Zoom appointment. If I can't help solve the problem myself, I can point you towards one of the many excellent support systems for students who need to improve their writing, research or study skills.

COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials include one textbook and several articles and book chapters. The book is the latest edition of a classic text on political parties. [It is on order and should be available from the University Co-Op on January 27, 2021](#). If you choose, you can also get it directly from the publisher (Routledge Press). The formal citation is:

- Marjorie Randon Hershey. *Party Politics in America* (18th ed.), New York: Routledge Press, 2021.

The other materials will be available in the “Files” section on Canvas, within the “Course Readings” folder.

CANVAS

Course materials and grades will be available online through Canvas.

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1301543> (in-person)

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1301549> (web-based)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be determined by your score out of 500 possible points. The break-down is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	QUESTIONS	DATE
Take-Home 1	100		Feb. 25, @ 5:00 PM Central
Take-Home 2	100		April 29, @ 5:00 PM Central
Midterm 1			
Multiple Choice	50	50	March 9, 2:00-3:15 PM Central
Short-Answer	50	10	March 11, 2:00-3:15 PM Central
Midterm 2			
Multiple Choice	50	50	May 4, 2:00-3:15 PM Central
Short-Answer	50	10	May 6, 2:00-3:15 Pm Central
Attendance & Participation	100		Most every Monday at 5:00 PM Central
TOTAL	500		

Take-Home Essays

The take-home essays require you to respond to a single broad, theoretical question. You are expected to rely on the assigned readings to construct your answer, although you are encouraged to go beyond the prepared course materials. Your response must be in essay form, 5-6 pages long, typed, double-spaced, with 10-12 point font and 1"-1.5" margins. Please turn in a hard copy of your take-home essay; electronic submissions are allowed only in exceptional circumstances. You may NOT collaborate with classmates on the take-home exams. The take-homes are tentatively due on Thursday, **February 25** and Thursday, **April 29**. I will attempt to provide the take-home questions a week in advance of these due dates. The take-homes will be graded on a 0-100 point scale. No late papers will be accepted without a compelling excuse. If I accept a late paper due to an excuse, I will deduct 5 points for each day the paper is late.

Midterms

The midterm exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions and 10 short answer questions. The exams are not cumulative. The first exam covers material up to and including "Public Opinion, Campaigns, and Voting." The second exam covers material from "Activists, Organizations, and Machine Politics" through "Reforming the Parties."

- The exams encompass both reading and lecture material; the balance is approximately 70% lecture, 30% reading.
- As indicated by the figure above, each exam will be spread over two days.
 - The first day will be multiple choice. The exam will consist of 50 items. Each item will have four response options. ("None of the above" or "B and C only" or "All of the above" are possible options.)
 - The second day will be short answer questions. You will be asked to write a sentence or two in response to specific questions. Your answer will be graded on a 0-5 scale in

which you start off with a 0 and work your way up depending upon the quality of your answer. An answer that is basically correct, for example, is worth 4 points. An answer that demonstrates that you can actually apply the appropriate concepts to understand politics more broadly is worth 5 points. My approach is to reward analytical mastery rather than nit-picking you to death.

Attendance and Participation

Normally, I take attendance in class and use this as the basis for awarding “attendance/participation” points. The pandemic makes this somewhat problematic. So here’s what we’re going to do this semester...

I will post a short quiz on Canvas by Friday morning of every week, beginning on Jan. 22 (week 1) and ending on April 30 (week 14). The quiz will cover that week’s lecture material. Each one is worth 10 points, and is graded automatically. These quizzes are due the following Monday at 5:00 PM Central time. (So, for example, the quiz released on Friday, Jan. 22 is due on Monday, Jan. 25 at 5:00.) Students will keep their 10 best grades out of the 14 weekly quizzes. This allows me to reward those who keep up with the materials AND encourages students not to fall behind.

Attending lecture is a good idea at any rate, as the exams and take-home essays draw on these materials; this is just another way of incentivizing good study habits.

Note that if your personal schedule precludes you from attending lecture during a given week, you can simply use one of your four “drops.”

Grading

The grading scale is as follows:

Points	Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade
465-500	A	385-399.99	C+	335-349.99	D+
450-464.99	A-	365-384.99	C	315-334.99	D
435-449.99	B+	350-364.99	C-	300-314.99	D-
415-434.99	B			0-299.99	F
400-414.99	B-				

Please note that your grade is determined by your overall point total; percentages are used to determine the cut-points, but are otherwise irrelevant for your grade. This can be somewhat confusing, because Canvas automatically produces percentages in their grade scoring algorithms.

With respect to rounding, we typically round down when determining the cut-points. However, we do NOT then go ahead and also round student point totals up. We can only take charity so far. In light of this, please refrain from asking us to “round up” your grade at the end of the semester. We cannot do this without offering the same to everyone else, and we are not prepared to thus destroy the integrity of the evaluative process.

Finally, we reserve the right to use a curve, which would take the top score in the course and “percentage” off of that number to determine cut-points. For example, say the top score were 495. We

might then take 93% of this to set the A range at 460-500, the A- range at 445-459.99 (90% * 495), etc. We emphasize that students should not EXPECT a curve; it is something that we occasionally use if we think it appropriate given the overall distribution of scores. More information on this will come later in the class, if necessary.

Important Notes on Requirements and Evaluations

There is no final exam associated with this class. Final grades will be posted 48 hours prior to the official deadline from the College of Liberal Arts.

PLEASE NOTE: To receive credit for this course, students will need to...

- Complete both midterm assignments, and
- Complete both take-home essay assignments, and
- Complete at least 7 participation/attendance quizzes.

These requirements are critical: Even if you have enough points for, say, a C in the course, you need to complete these assignments to pass. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade.

If you have a university-defined and approved excuse (e.g., a medical or personal emergency) that prevents you from taking the exam or turning in the take-home essay at the appointed time, please notify us immediately so we can consider an alternative arrangement. Please be prepared to offer appropriate documentation. Also, please consult university guidelines on these matters, as standards and expectations are shifting in light of COVID-19. There will be no make-ups for any missed participation/attendance assignments.

Procedures for Dealing with Grade Concerns

While we are always happy to discuss substantive issues and how to improve your performance in the class, we insist on a more formal process if you wish us to re-grade your work. There are only two legitimate reasons for a re-grade request. First, if you wrote something that was correct and we identified it as incorrect. Second, if you wrote something that was clearly mischaracterized by us during evaluation. If you believe one or both of these situations pertains to your work, you can formally request that we re-grade a specific exam. Such a request must adhere to the following procedure:

- The first step is to visit the TA who graded the assignment in office hours. A simple “face-to-face” (virtual, in this case) may alleviate your questions or concerns.
- If you still think one or both of the two situations described above pertains, then you should proceed to a written request. All grade complaints must be **TYPED** and must clearly express the student’s specific concerns. These written statements must be accompanied by citations of support from course materials, i.e. readings, textbook, and/or lecture notes, in order to ensure accuracy. Please limit this statement to one page. These statements should be submitted to Prof. Shaw.
- Written statements may be submitted for consideration **AFTER** one week has passed since the assignment was returned to students. This allows the student time to re-read his/her answers and think carefully about what improvements could have been made.
- Grade complaints will not be considered once two weeks have passed after the grade has been given. For example, if we return a graded assignment on March 9, students must submit a complaint **ON OR BEFORE** March 23. After that day, no complaints will be considered for that assignment.

- Finally, submitting a grade grievance will result in a complete re-grade of the assignment. In other words, you cannot cherry-pick what we review. We will re-grade all responses. Just as we may have erred to your detriment on one item, we might have erred in your favor on another.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The online course format allows us to monitor and detect issues involving identity verification, collusion, collaboration and plagiarism. A violation of the course policy may include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Providing your UT EID to another person;
- Collaborating or sharing information with another person on a quiz, writing assignment, or exercise;
- Recording any quiz, assessment or assignment material in any format;
- Failing to properly cite ideas, data, or arguments that are not originally yours.

The University of Texas at Austin Academic Integrity Principles call for students to avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/index.php>

Grade-related penalties are routinely assessed ("F" in the course is not uncommon), but students can also be suspended or even permanently expelled from the University for scholastic dishonesty: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php>

Honor system for quizzes and assignments. By taking this class, you agree to abide by the University of Texas regulations concerning cheating. While working on your activities, you cannot receive help from others or discuss your short essay assignments with other students. If you observe others cheating, you are honor bound to contact the teaching team.

TITLE IX REPORTING

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **We are Responsible Employees and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with us, or with any faculty or staff

member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix@austin.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

GENERAL POLICY & PROCEDURES

Thank You for Not...

1. Using profanity or any euphemisms for profanity;
2. Personally attacking other students;
3. Baiting other students;
4. Arguing for the sake of arguing;
5. Using hyperbole when something less will suffice;
6. Using sarcasm in a way that can be misinterpreted negatively;
7. Making the same point over and over again;
8. Typing "no-hitter" or "perfect game" to describe either in progress;
9. Being annoyed by the existence of this list;
10. Claiming your opinion isn't allowed when it's just being disagreed with;
11. Transmitting, copying, or otherwise distributing lecture material without our expressed written consent.

INTERNET RESOURCES & INFORMATION SITES

If you want to use the Internet to keep abreast of what's happening in politics, I recommend the following sites:

Media

<http://www.cnn.com>
<http://www.foxnews.com>
<http://www.nytimes.com>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com>
<http://www.latimes.com>

Advertising

<http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php>
<http://mediaproject.wesleyan.edu/>

Money

<http://www.fec.gov>
<http://www.opensecrets.com>
<http://www.followthemoney.org>

Election Data

<http://uselectionatlas.org>
http://www.umich.edu/_nes/index.htm
<http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/redist/redist.htm>
For data for a specific state, check the Secretary of State's website (Election Division).

Parties

<http://www.democrats.org>

<http://www.gop.com/>

Texas Parties/Politics

<http://www.txdemocrats.org>

<http://www.texasgop.org>

<https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/>

<http://www.texastribune.org>

Third Party Madness!

[http://www\(gp.org](http://www(gp.org)/

<http://www.lp.org>/

<https://www.socialistpartyusa.net/>

<http://www.thirdway.org>/

<https://reformparty.org>/

Polling

<http://www.pollingreport.com>

<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls/>

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latest_polls/

General

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/>

<http://www.realclearpolitics.com>

<http://www.politico.com>

<http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/>

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan. 19 Jan. 21	Brief Introduction Introduction: Definitions, Concepts, Examples of Parties	J.K. White, "What is a Political Party?" R.S. Katz, "Party in Democratic Theory" M.R. Hershey, "Political Parties as Mechanisms of Social Choice"
Jan. 26-28	What Affects Parties and Party Systems? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spatial Theory• Electoral Structure	D.E. Stokes, "Spatial Models of Party Competition" W.H. Riker, "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law" I. Budge, "Identifying Dimensions and Locating Parties: Methodological and Conceptual Problems" A. Pappalardo, "Electoral Systems, Party Systems" S. Mainwaring & M. Torcal, "Party System Institutionalization and Party System Theory After the Third Wave of Democratization"
Feb. 2-4	What Affects Parties and Party Systems? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numerical, Organizational, Motivational Theories• Social Cleavage Theory	J.A.J. Evans, "In Defense of Sartori" S.B. Wolinetz, "Party Systems and Party System Types" P.M. Siavelis, "Party and Social Structure" P. Mair, "Cleavages" G. Marks & C.J. Wilson, "The Past in the Present: A Cleavage Theory of Party Response to European Integration" V. Randall, "Political Parties and Social Structure in the Developing World" P.G. Lewis, "Party States and State Parties"
Feb. 9-11	The American Party Systems	Hershey: Chapters 1-2 W. Crotty, "Party Origins and Evolution in the United States"
Feb. 16-18	Party System Change (Realignment and Dealignment)	Hershey: Chapter 7 P. Mair, "Party System Change" W. Crotty, "Party Transformations: The United States and Western Europe" V. Emanuele & A. Chiaramonte, "A Growing Impact of New Parties, A Myth or Reality?"
Feb. 23-25	Turnout FIRST TAKE-HOME DUE, FEB. 25	Hershey: Chapter 8
Mar. 2-4	Public Opinion, Campaigns, & Voting Behavior	Hershey: Chapters 6, 11
Mar. 9-11	FIRST MIDTERM	
Mar. 15-19	SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 23-25	Party Activists, Organizations, and Machine Politics	Hershey: Chapters 3-5 P. Norris, "Recruitment"

Mar. 30-Apr. 1	Selecting Candidates The Presidential Nomination Processes	Hershey: Chapters 9-10 R.Y. Hazan & G. Rahat, "Candidate Selection: Methods and Consequences"
Apr. 6-8	Parties and Campaign Finance	Hershey: Chapter 12
Apr. 13-15	Third Parties in the U.S.	
Apr. 20-22	Parties in Government— Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary	Hershey: Chapters 13-14 H. Keman, "Parties and Government: Features of Governing in Representative Democracies"
Apr. 27-29	Elections, Governance, and Parties— Referenda and Divided Government Polarization and the Parties Reforming the Parties SECOND TAKE-HOME DUE, APRIL 29	Hershey: Chapters 15-16
May 4-6	SECOND MIDTERM	