

PSCI206 POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS

Fall Semester 2000

Kauke 127, MW 2:00-3:20pm

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Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:50am or by appointment

Course WebPage Address: http://www.wooster.edu/polisci/kb/PSC_206.html

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE OF READINGS

PSC206, Political Parties and Elections, is an upper-division political science course focusing on political parties as organizations of mobilization and political restraint, and on elections as democratic means of citizen expression as well as the means by which states can control their citizenry. The year 2000 offers us the opportunity to reflect on the extent to which U.S. political parties are “responsible” in the light of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Political Science Association’s report on responsible parties. The APSA webpage devoted to “Toward a More Responsible Party System” is available at

<http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/~party>

The year 2000 also permits us to employ the 2000 presidential election as a case for investigating questions of citizen participation, elite recruitment, campaigns, election conduct and election outcome.

Evaluation of student performance in this course will be based on the following criteria. First, students are expected to attend class and to be prepared for each class meeting by having read, in advance, the materials assigned for that day; this will serve as preparation for class discussion, in which all students are expected to participate. Informed class discussion accounts for 5 percent of the final course grade. Second, each student will complete three short research papers, each of which is worth 15 percent of the final grade. Details concerning research papers are provided in a separate handout. Third, each student will participate in three in-class debates; debate participation accounts for 10 percent of the final grade. Details concerning the topics and structure of in-class debates are provided in a separate handout. Finally, each student will write a final research paper. The final research paper accounts for 20 percent of the final grade; guidelines for the final research paper are available in a separate handout. Deadlines for papers and the schedule for in-class debates are provided, below.

The following books are required for this course and are available for purchase in Wilson Bookstore:

Paul Abramson, John Aldrich, and David Rohde, Change and Continuity in the 1996 and 1998 Elections
Stephen Ansolabehere and Shanto Iyengar, Going Negative
Clifford Brown, Jr., Linda W. Powell, and Clyde Wilcox, Serious Money
Anthony Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy
Ruy Teixeira and Joel Rogers, American's Forgotten Majority: Why the White Working Class Still Matters
APSA Style Manual for Political Science

Students are also required to subscribe to the New York Times; information concerning subscriptions will be provided. Additional readings are available on reserve in Andrews Library. Each student should make a photocopy of every additional assigned reading for his or her own research purposes. Please note that this is a requirement of the course.

Students are reminded that they are obliged to understand, to uphold, and to comply with the Code of Academic Integrity at the College of Wooster. A copy of the Code may be found in The Scot's Key, pp. 55-58. Students who do not understand the Code after having read it should make an appointment to see me to discuss it; indeed, I welcome this discussion and encourage students to see me in advance of any assignment about which they have doubts or questions. Please note that any violation of the Code of Academic Integrity means the student's immediate failure in the course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

August 28 Introduction to the Course

August 30 READ: Walter Dean Burnham, The Current Crisis in American Politics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982), Chapters 1 and 2 [on reserve].

September 4 **Responsible Political Parties**

READ: E. E. Schattschneider, "In Defense of Political Parties" and "The Special Character of the American Parties: The Two-Party System" (Chapters I and IV in Party Government. New York: Rinehart, 1942) [on reserve]

September 6 **Rational Political Parties**

READ: Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy, Part I

September 11 READ: Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy, Chapters 7 and 8

September 13 **IN-CLASS DEBATE**

September 18 **Campaigning: Primaries**

READ: Abramson et al., Change and Continuity, Chapter 1

September 20 Class Presentation by James Ruvolo, former Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party

September 25 READ: Lonna Rae Atkeson, "Divisive Primaries and General Election Outcomes: Another Look at Presidential Campaigns," American Journal of Political Research, 42 (1), January 1998: 256-271 [course handout] and Gary C. Jacobson, The Politics of Congressional Elections (New York: Longman, 2000), Chapter 3 [on reserve]

September 27 READ: Gary C. Jacobson, The Politics of Congressional Elections (New York: Longman, 2000), Chapters 4 and 5 [on reserve]

September 28 FIRST PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 4:00PM

September 30-October 3 FALL BREAK

October 4 **Money**

FILM: "Campaign Spending"

October 9 READ: Brown et al., Serious Money, Chapter 1-3

October 11 READ: Brown et al., Serious Money, Chapters 4 and 5

October 16 READ: Brown et al., Serious Money, Chapters 6 and 7

October 18 Class Presentation by the Honorable Tom Sawyer (D-Ohio)

October 23 Class Presentation by the Honorable Ralph Regula (R-Ohio)

October 25 **IN-CLASS DEBATE**

October 30 **Media**

READ: Ansolabehere and Iyengar, Going Negative, Chapters 1-7

November 1 READ: Steven E. Finkel and John G. Geer, "A Spot Check: Casting Doubt on the Demobilizing Effect of Attack Advertising," American Journal of Political Research, 42 (2), April 1998: 573-595; and Paul

Freedman and Ken Goldstein, "Measuring Media Exposure and the Effects of Negative Campaign Ads," American Journal of Political Science, 43 (4), October 1999: 1189-1208 [both on reserve].

November 6 FILM: “Disconnected: Politics, the Press, and the Public”

SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS

November 7 **ELECTION DAY**

November 8 **The Electorate**

READ: Abramson et al., Change and Continuity, Chapters 4 and 5; and R. Michael Alvarez and Jonathan Nagler, “Economic, Entitlements and Social Issues: Voter Choice in the 1996 Presidential Election,” American Journal of Political Research, 42 (4), October 1998: 1349-1363 [on reserve].

November 13 READ: Teixeira and Rogers, America’s Forgotten Majority, Preface and Chapter 1; and Clem Brooks and Jeff Manza. 1997. “The Social and Ideological Bases of Middle-Class Political Realignment in the United States, 1972 to 1992.” American Sociological Review, 62, April: 191-208 [on reserve].

November 15 READ: Teixeira and Rogers, America’s Forgotten Majority, Chapters 3 and 4; and Karen M. Kaufmann and John R. Petrocik, “The Changing Politics of American Men: Understanding the Sources of the Gender Gap,” American Journal of Political Research, 43 (3), July 1999: 864-887 [on reserve].

November 20 READ: Abramson et al., Change and Continuity, Chapters 6-8; Teixeira and Rogers, America’s Forgotten Majority, Chapter 5; R. Michael Alvarez and Jonathan Nagler. 1995. “Economics, Issues and the Perot Candidacy: Voter Choice in the 1992 Presidential Election.” American Journal of Political Science, 39 (3), August: 714-744 [on reserve].

November 21 THIRD PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 4:00PM

November 22-26 THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27 **Responsible Political Parties: Fifty Years After**

READ: Abramson et al., Change and Continuity, Chapter 12; and The American Political Science Association’s Report on Responsible Political Parties at

http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/~party/report_and_commentaries.html

November 29 READ: Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." Party Politics, 1 (1): 5-28; and Harold D. Clark and Marianne C. Stewart. 1998. "The Decline of Parties in the Minds of Citizens." Annual Review of Political Science, 1: 357-78 [both on reserve].

December 4 READ: Special Issue: "Whither the Parties? Changes in the Party System." American Politics Quarterly, 27 (1), January 1999.

December 6 **IN-CLASS DEBATE**

FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, BY 2:00PM.