

Political Science 342

Howard Reiter

Political Parties and the Electorate

Fall 1999

My office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5 PM, in Monteith 218. Other office hours can be arranged if these are inconvenient for you. My phone number is 486-3464, and my e-mail address is reiter@uconnvm.uconn.edu.

If there are any students in this class who have special needs because of learning disabilities or other kinds of disabilities, please feel free to come and discuss this with me.

The following paperbacks are in the Co-op and are required for purchase. There are copies of all other required readings on reserve in the Library. In addition, a Course Pack is on sale at the Co-op.

Edward G. Carmines and James A. Stimson, *Issue Evolution*
Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*
Bruce E. Keith et al., *The Myth of the Independent Voter*
Theodore J. Lowi and Joseph Romance, *A Republic of Parties?*
Sidney M. Milkis, *The President and the Parties*
Nelson W. Polsby, *Consequences of Party Reform*
Byron E. Shafer, ed., *The End of Realignment?*
Joel H. Silbey, *The American Political Nation 1838-1893*
Martin P. Wattenberg, *The Decline of American Political Parties 1952-1994* -- Co-op edition only

In addition, about half the class will read Frank Sorauf, *Inside Campaign Finance* (we'll decide later who will read it)

I. General Overview

September 13:

Rationales for Party:

Leon D. Epstein, "The Scholarly Commitment to Parties," in Ada W. Finifter, ed., *Political Science*, pp. 127-153 (NOTE: Not to be confused with an Epstein essay to be read later in the term!)

James Madison, excerpts from two essays on parties (to be distributed in class)

Giovanni Sartori, *Parties and Party Systems*, pp. 24-29

V. O. Key, Jr., *Southern Politics*, pp. 15-18, 298-311

Walter Dean Burnham, "The End of American Party Politics," *Trans-Action*, December 1969, pp. 12-22

Anthony King, "Political Parties in Western Democracies," *Polity* II (Winter 1969), 111-141

Two Approaches to Party:

Thomas Ferguson, *Golden Rule*, pp. 377-419

John H. Aldrich, *Why Parties?*, pp. 3-27

September 20:

Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*

September 27:

"Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System," Supplement to the *American Political Science Review* XLIV (September 1950), pp. 1-14 (and skim the rest)

Evron M. Kirkpatrick, "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System," *American Political Science Review* LXV (December 1971), 965-990

Edward C. Banfield, "In Defense of the American Party System," in Robert A. Goldwin, ed., *Political Parties, U.S.A.*, pp. 21-39

James Q. Wilson, *The Amateur Democrat*, pp. 1-4, 340-360

Robert T. Nakamura and Denis G. Sullivan, "Party Democracy and Democratic Control," in Walter Dean Burnham and Martha Wagner Weinberg, eds., *American Politics and Public Policy*, pp. 26-40

James L. Sundquist, "Party Decay and the Capacity to Govern," in *The American Assembly, The Future of American Political Parties*, pp. 42-69

Lawrence B. Joseph, "Neoconservatism in Contemporary Political Science," *Journal of Politics* XLIV (November 1982), 955-982

Theodore J. Lowi and Joseph Romance, *A Republic of Parties?*, pp. 3-76

II. The Development of American Political Parties

October 4:

Walter Dean Burnham, "The Changing Shape of the American Political Universe," *American Political Science Review* LIX (March 1965), 7-28

William Nisbet Chambers, "Party Development in the American Mainstream," in William Nisbet Chambers and Walter Dean Burnham, eds., *The American Party Systems*, pp. 3-32

Walter Dean Burnham, "Party Systems and the Political Process," in Chambers and Burnham, pp. 277-307

Jerrold G. Rusk, "The Effect of the Australian Ballot Reform on Split Ticket Voting," *American Political Science Review* LXIV (December 1970), 1220-1238; and the exchange between Burnham and Rusk in the *American Political Science Review* LXV (December 1971), 1149-1157

Joel H. Silbey, *The American Political Nation 1838-1893*

October 18:

Theodore J. Lowi, "Party, Policy and Constitution in America," in Chambers and Burnham, pp. 238-276

Sidney M. Milkis, The President and the Parties

October 25:

Byron E. Shafer, ed., The End of Realignment?

(DON'T FORGET TO PRESENT YOUR TOPIC TODAY)

III. Mass Attitudes and Behavior

November 1:

Martin P. Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties 1952-1994 -- Co-op edition only

Michael J. Avey, The Demobilization of American Voters, pp. 3-42

(NOTE: Due to copyright problems, this reading is not included in the Course Pack. You can find it on reserve in the Library.)

November 8:

Bruce E. Keith et al., The Myth of the Independent Voter

IV. Other Recent Trends

November 15:

Nelson W. Polsby, Consequences of Party Reform

Howard L. Reiter, "The Limitations of Reform," British Journal of Political Science XV (October 1985), 399-426 (be sure to read through page 426!)

Walter J. Stone and Alan I. Abramowitz, "Winning May Not Be Everything, But It's More Than We Thought," American Political Science Review LXXVII (December 1983), 945-956

Leon Epstein, "Presidential Nominations Since Party Reform"

November 22:

Maurice Duverger, Political Parties, pp. 17-40

Joseph A. Schlesinger, Political Parties and the Winning of Office, pp. 1-31

M. Margaret Conway, "Republican Political Party Nationalization, Campaign Activities, and Their Implications for the Party System," Publius XIII (Winter 1983), 1-17

Cornelius P. Cotter and John F. Bibby, "Institutional Development of Parties and the Thesis of Party Decline," Political Science Quarterly XCV (Spring 1980), 1-27

Cornelius P. Cotter et al., Party Organizations in American Politics, pp. 13-60

David Mayhew, Placing Parties in American Politics, pp. 17-23,

238-307

Paul S. Herrnson, Party Campaigning in the 1980s, pp. 1-29, 47-83,
120-130

John Aldrich, Why Parties?, pp. 241-296

November 29:

One of the following:

Dan Clawson et al., Dollars and Votes

Frank Sorauf, Inside Campaign Finance

December 6:

Carmines and Stimson, Issue Evolution

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are three components of the grade in this course: class participation (40% of final grade), a take-home final essay (30%), and a short research paper (30%).