

BOSTON COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Po 306 American Parties and Elections

Prof. Kay Schlozman

Fall 2002

In this course we will study American political parties and elections from a variety of points of view. We will consider -- among other things -- campaigns, media politics, campaign finance, the behavior of voters, and the past and future of party coalitions. Underlying our consideration of these various topics will be a concern for two fundamental intellectual issues: the role of political parties in structuring political conflict in a democracy and the extent to which our electoral system contributes to democratic control of government.

Because we are in the midst of an election, this is an especially good time to take this course. Students are expected to follow the elections in a national newspaper like the New York Times or Washington Post. They are also encouraged to experience electoral politics directly by volunteering in a campaign.

Office Hours - 231 McGuinn

Tuesdays: 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.
Wednesdays: 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.
Thursdays: 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

If these times are inconvenient please, please get in touch with me by e-mail at kschloz@bc.edu or leave a message for me in my office (617-552-4174) or at home (617-566-1101).

Course Requirements:

Mid-term examination:	October 24
Paper Topics:	November 5
Paper:	November 21

Grading:

Class participation	10%
Mid-term	25%
Paper	25%
Final Exam	40%
	<u>100%</u>

Books Ordered at the Boston College Bookstore:

- Abramson, Paul R., John H. Aldrich, and David Rohde, Change and Continuity in the 2000 Elections (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2002).
- Corrado, Anthony, Campaign Finance Reform (New York: The Century Press, 2000).
- DiClerico, Robert E., ed., Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections (Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000).
- Eldersveld, Samuel and Hanes Walton, Jr., Political Parties in American Society, (2nd ed.; Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000).
- Ginsberg, Benjamin, and Martin Shefter, Politics by Other Means (3rd ed.; New York: Norton, 2002).
- Hess, Stephen, The Little Book of Campaign Etiquette (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2000).
- Jacobson, Gary C., The Politics of Congressional Elections, (5th ed.; New York: Longman, 2001).
- Longley, Lawrence D. and Neal R. Pierce, The Electoral College Primer (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999).
- Rakove, Jack N., ed., The Unfinished Election of 2000 (New York: Basic Books, 2001).
- Reichley, A. James, The Life of the Parties (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000).

Paper Assignment

The paper assignment for this course is to apply to concrete cases the concepts and principles we have been developing all semester. Your task is to use the variety of perspectives on parties and elections we have encountered in class to make systematic comparisons between two presidential elections from the post-World War II era. In your analysis you will probably wish to cover the following: office-seeking strategies, campaigning, voting, the building of electoral coalitions, and electoral continuity and change.

Choosing your elections with care is the first step to writing a good paper. That is, if your pair of elections present interesting points of comparison and contrast you will find it easier to formulate a cogent analysis. Lest you get off on the wrong foot, please hand in a brief typed memo in which you tell me which elections you have chosen and discuss in a few sentences why they represent a sensible choice.

Many of the readings for class contain useful material, as do the tables distributed in class. Do not overlook them, for the emphasis in this paper is on thinking and organizing rather than on the sheer accumulation of outside sources. However, you will need to go beyond the assigned materials and do additional research. I have placed a number of books on reserve in O'Neill in order to help you in assembling materials for this paper. I have chosen these books with care. I am sure that there are other useful materials on the shelves not included on the list, but the items on the list are especially likely to be helpful.

The paper should use standard forms of scholarly attribution. If you do not know the standard forms for footnotes and bibliography, the department recommends the following reference book, which is available at the B.C.

Bookstore: Lynn Quitman Troyka. Simon and Schuster Handbook for Writers, 5th. ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999).

Since the computers on which we all depend misbehave just when we most need them, it is wise to print out the finished paper at least a day in advance lest you run into mechanical problems. Also, please hang onto any notes or rough drafts until I hand back your paper to you.

Suggested approximate length: 10-12 pages

Due Dates

Proposed elections: November 5

Final paper: November 21

REQUIRED READING

All readings have been placed on reserve in O'Neill.

9/3- I. Introduction: Parties and Party Systems
9/5

Key, V.O., Southern Politics, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949), chap. 14.

Eldersveld, Samuel J. and Hanes Walton, Political Parties in American Society (2nd ed.: Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000) chaps. 1-3.

Herrnson, Paul S. "Two Party Dominance and Minor Party Forays in American Politics," in Paul S. Herrnson and John C. Green, eds., Multiparty Politics in America (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997), chap. 1.

9/10- II. Party Organizations and Activists
9/12

Eldersveld and Walton, Political Parties in American Society, chaps. 6-9.

9/17- III. Citizens in Electoral Politics
9/24

Eldersveld and Walton, Political Parties in American Society, chaps. 5, 13.

Teixeira, Ruy, "Just How Much Difference Does Turnout Really Make?" in Robert E. DeClerico, ed., Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000), pp. 152-163.

Stokes, Donald, and John J. DiIulio, Jr., "The Setting: Valence Politics in Modern Elections" in Michael Nelson, ed., The Elections of 1992 (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1993).

Abramson, Paul R., John H. Aldrich, and David Rohde, Change and Continuity in the 2000 Elections (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2002), chaps. 5-8.

IV. Political Parties and Elections

A. Running for Office

9/26

1. Introduction

Hess, Stephen, The Little Book of Campaign Etiquette (Washington, DC: Brookings, 2000), (Skim).

Thurber, James F., and Candice Nelson, eds., Campaigns and Elections American Style (Boulder: Westview Press, 1995):

Sweeney, William R., "The Principles of Planning", chap. 2.

Bradshaw, Joel, "Who Will Vote for You and Why," chap. 3.

Ezra, Marni, and Candice Nelson, "Do Campaigns Matter?" chap. 18.

10/1

2. Presidential Nominations

Davis, James W., "The Caucus - Convention System," in DeClerico, ed., Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections, pp. 14-30.

Haskell, John, "A Quarter Century of Direct Democracy," in DiClerico, ed., Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections, pp. 31-44.

Mayer, William G., "The Presidential Nominations," in Gerald M. Pomper, ed., The Election of 2000 (New York: Chatham House, 2001), chap. 2.

10/3

3. Campaign Styles and Strategies

Charles Babington, "Campaigns Matter," in Larry J. Sabato, ed., Overtime: The 2000 Election Thriller (New York: Longman, 2002), chap. 2.

Lichter, S. Robert and Richard E. Noyes, "There They Go Again," in DiClerico, Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections, pp. 95-108.

Mayer, William, "In Defense of Negative Campaigning," in DiClerico, Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections, pp. 117-129.

Owen, Diana, "Media Mayhem: Performance of the Press in Election 2000" in Sabato, ed., Overtime, chap. 6

Diamond, Martin, "Spots", American Behavioral Scientist (March/April, 1989), pp. 332-338.

Adatto, Kiku, "The Incredible Shrinking Sound Bite," The New Republic, May 28, 1990, pp. 20-23.

10/8-
10/10

4. Campaign Finance

Corrado, Anthony, Campaign Finance Reform (New York: The Century Press, 2000).

10/15

5. The Electoral College

Longley, Lawrence D. and Neal R. Pierce, The Electoral College Primer (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999), chaps. 1-2, 4-6.

10/17-

B. Congressional Elections

10/22

Jacobson, Gary, The Politics of Congressional Elections. (5th ed.; New York: Harper Collins, 2000).

V. Changing Party Alignments

10/29

A. Theories of Electoral Change

Key, V.O. "A Theory of Critical Elections," Journal of Politics, 17 (1955), 3-18.

Mayer, William, "Changes in Elections and the Party System" in Bryan Jones, ed., The New American Politics, chap 2.

10/31-
11/7

B. Party Development and Changing Alignments

Reichley, A. James, The Life of the Parties (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000).

11/12-
11/14

C. Parties in an Era of Dealignment

Dionne, E. J. They Only Look Dead (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997), Afterward.

Shea, Daniel M., "The Passing of Realignment," in DiClerico, ed., Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections, pp. 230-248.

Cooper, John Milton, Jr., "'The Leaving It': The Election of 2000 at the Bar of History," in Jack N. Rakove, ed., The Unfinished Election of 2000 (New York: Basic Books, 2001), chap. 1

Brady, Henry E., "Trust the People: Political Party Coalitions and the 2000 Election," in Rakove, ed. The Unfinished Election, chap. 1.

11/19-
11/21

D. The Election of 2000

Keyssar, Alexander, "The Right to Vote and Election 2000," in Rakove, ed. The Unfinished Election, chap. 3.

Kramer, Larry, "The Supreme Court in Politics," in Rakove, ed. The Unfinished Election, chap. 4.

Karlan, Pamela S. "Equal Protection: Bush v. Gore and the Making of a Precedent," in Rakove, ed., The Unfinished Election, chap. 5.

11/26-VI. Parties in Government

12/3

Pomper, Gerald, "Parliamentary Government in the United States?" in DiClerico, ed., Political Parties Campaigns, and Elections, pp. 269-285.

Oppenheimer, Bruce I., "The Importance of Elections in a Strong Congressional Party Era," in Benjamin Ginsburg and Alan Stone, eds., Do Elections Matter? (3rd ed.; Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1996), pp. 120-140.

Sinclair, Barbara, "Policy-Oriented Congressional Parties in the 90s," In L. Sandy Maisel, ed., The Parties Respond (3rd ed.; Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1998), chap. 12.

Mackenzie, G. Calvin, "Partisan Presidential Leadership: The

President's Appointments," in Maisel, ed., The Parties Respond, chap. 14.

12/5- VII. Parties, Elections, and Democratic Linkage
12/10

Schlozman, Kay and Sidney Verba, "Sending Them a Message - Getting a Reply," in Schlozman, ed., Elections in America (Boston: Allen and Unwin, 1987), chap. 1.

Ginsberg, Benjamin and Martin Shefter, Politics by Other Means (3rd ed.; New York: W. W. Norton, 2002).

Joslin, Richard, "Candidate Appeals and the Meaning of Elections," in Ginsberg and Stone, eds., Do Elections Matter?, pp. 143-167.