

PSC 307
Political Parties
Office hours: MWF 12-1, 2-3

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Requirements and grading

There are four parts of the course grade:

- Two midterm examinations (30 percent of your course grade, each)
- A non-cumulative final exam (30 percent of your course grade)
- Randomized pop quizzes (10 percent of your course grade)

If you have a disability requiring some accommodation, let me know *early* in the course.

Readings

- Hershey, *Party Politics in America* (Hershey)
- Aldrich, *Why Parties?* (Aldrich)
- Green et al, *Partisan Hearts and Minds* (Green)
- Various articles or chapters available electronically or through reserves

Make-up exams

In general, I offer make-up exams only for circumstances that legitimately prevent a student from attending. Documented medical conditions, legal requirements to be elsewhere, official university functions, and so on.

Academic integrity

See the UB pages on academic integrity. Expect heavy retribution for misconduct.

Decorum etc

Please show up on time and be ready to start taking notes at the beginning of class - we have a lot to get through and little time to do it. My general approach to cell phones ringing in class is public shame, but in the event that you are beyond shame, I will reduce your course grade.

Learning Objectives and Assessment

Outcome	Assessment
Be able to identify and discuss important scholarly debates and research questions	Exams
Demonstrate the ability to recognize and apply key concepts and major theories	Exams
Be able to identify and critically evaluate the arguments of scholarly research in political science.	Exams
Engage in conceptual analysis and theoretical interpretation of political ideas and phenomena.	Exams
Develop the ability to apply social scientific reasoning in the analysis of a wide range of political issues and problems.	Exams

Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 30 - Feb 3	Introductory material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 1, 2
Feb 6–10	In defense of parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schattschneider, <i>Party Government</i>, Ch. 1• Wright and Schaffner, “The Influence of Parties,” <i>APSR</i> 2002.
Feb 13–17	Parties as bridge organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aldrich 1 - 5
Feb 20–24	Party as organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 3
Feb 27 - Mar 3	Party as organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 4, 5• Aldrich 6 - 9
Mar 6 Mar 8-10	Midterm 1 Party identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 6, 8• Green et al: Req'd: 1, 2, 3 (intro + concl), 4 (intro + concl), 5, 6, 8 Recommended: rest of book
Mar 13–17	Party ID, Coalitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 7• Keith et al, “The Partisan Affinities of Independent Leaners,” <i>BJPS</i> 1986
Mar 20--24	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 27–31	Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 9
Apr 3–7	Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 10• Cohen et al, “Beating Reform,” conference paper -- https://www.princeton.edu/csdp/events/Zaller021102/Zaller.pdf• Reading TBA about where <i>The Party Decides</i> went wrong
Apr 10–14	Parties and general elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 11, 12
Apr 17 Apr 19–21	Midterm 2 Legislative parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 13• Krehbiel, “Paradoxes of Parties in Congress,” <i>LSQ</i> 1999 (skip part IV if you want)
Apr 24–28	Legislative, executive, and judicial parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ansolabehere et al, “The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll-Call Voting,” <i>LSQ</i> 2001• Hershey 14
May 1–5	Polarization and responsible parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 15
May 8–12	Putting the pieces back together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hershey 16