

POLITICAL PARTIES

Political Science 311

Fall 2005/2006
Section 01 11:00-11:50 MWF

Dr. William K. Hall
250 Bradley Hall

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This course seeks to provide you with an understanding of the development, operation, and prospects of political parties in America. In particular, we will consider the historic origins, electoral politics, and the recent organizational decline and renewal of the major parties.

As has been true for a decade or more, there is a soulful struggle going on in each of the major parties. The Republican Party as well as the Democratic Party are involved in life-and-death struggles for the “soul” of the party. Conservatives are attempting to make the Republican Party a conservative preserve with no moderates or liberals in the tent. Liberals are attempting to make the Democratic Party a liberal preserve with no moderates or conservatives in the tent. Part of what we will read and study deals with these two twin wars for the party’s soul.

READINGS FOR THE COURSE

Four books are required for the course. They are available at the Bradley Bookstore and other places:

John H. Aldrich, Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America, 1995.

James Carville, Buck Up, Suck Up, and Come Back When you Foul Up, 2003.

Zell Miller, A National Party No More, 2003.

Christine Todd Whitman, It’s My Party Too, 2005.

CLASSROOM METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

This class will be conducted through a combination of lecture, class discussion and student involvement. This means that while I will lecture some, the course will depend on the active participation and discussion efforts of you and everyone else in the class. It is imperative that you keep up with events and happenings of the contemporary national, state and local political party scenes.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

You are expected to attend ALL class sessions.

GRADES

Your overall grade will be weighted as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Mid-Term Examination | 80 points |
| Second (final) Examination | 120 points |
| Analytical/Research Project | 150 points |
| Panel Participation | 75 points |
| Class Participation | 25 points |

Course grades will be determined as follows:

- A – 450-405
- B – 404-360
- C – 359-315
- D – 314-270
- F – 269 or less

EXAMINATIONS

There will be two scheduled examinations:

The midterm exam will feature two pairs of essay questions. You will be asked to answer one question from each pair. The midterm exam (over Sections II, III and IV) will be given on Wednesday, October 19.

The second (final) exam will feature three pairs of essay questions. You will be asked to answer one question from each pair. The second (final) exam (over Sections V, VI, VII and VIII) will be given for this course only at the time assigned in the *Academic Handbook* for final week--Monday, December 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS

A make-up examination will be given only under the most extraordinary circumstances, and then only for a legitimate, excused absence. For example, a student who must unavoidably be absent on an examination day because of participation in official intercollegiate events (e.g., a member of the BU coed varsity synchronized shot putting team) should see the instructor before the regularly scheduled exam is given in order to discuss a make-up.

In cases of illness on an examination day, documented proof of the alleged affliction will likely be required before I will consider allowing you to take a make-up examination. In such cases as these, a make-up examination is given solely at the instructor's discretion.

ANALYTICAL/RESEARCH PROJECT

Each student will write an analytical/research paper of 15-18 pages in length. A detailed description of this project will be handed out in class and discussed on Wednesday, August 31. This analytical/research paper is due by class time on Monday, November 21.

PANEL PARTICIPATION

Each student will sign up to be a member of a student panel on one of the three “party soul” books (Whitman, Miller or Carville) and argue either strenuously for the position taken by the author or strenuously against the author’s position. There will be approximately 4 students on each side of the argument for each of the books.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

I have five expectations for class participation:

- (1) **That you will be in attendance at ALL of our class sessions.** Students Who miss more than four (4) class sessions will receive zero points for class participation.
- (2) That you read the assigned readings--whether from Aldrich, Whitman, Miller, Carville and/or class handouts--before coming to class each day.
- (3) That you will be aware of and knowledgeable about current political events and activities affecting and relating to political parties.

(4) That you come to class prepared to make a meaningful contribution to our class discussion.

(5) That you will be an active participant and will make a meaningful contribution to our class discussion.

EXTRA-CREDIT WORK

There is no such thing as extra-credit work in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Absolute academic integrity is expected of every Bradley student in all academic activities. Academic integrity is founded on the concept of honesty. Submission of work (whether that work is an analytical/research paper or an examination) by a Bradley student indicates that the work is the student's own. All outside assistance should be acknowledged.

In addition, Bradley students have a right to expect academic integrity from each of their peers. A more complete statement of student responsibilities can be found in the 2005-06 Bradley University Student Handbook, pp. 35-36.

OFFICE HOURS

Although you will see me three times a week in the classroom, it is possible you will want to see me in my office (**426-C Bradley Hall**). I am available to meet with you every day of the academic week, especially at these scheduled office hours:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:30 |
| Tuesday | 9:15-10:15, 1:00-2:30 |
| Wednesday | 9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:30 |
| Thursday | 9:15-10:15 |
| Friday | 9:15-10:45, 2:00-3:00 |

Should you need to reach me by phone, my office phone is: 677-2495. If I am not available when you call, you can leave a message for me on my AUDIX or you can reach the departmental administrative assistant at 677-2502 and leave a message with her. I can also be reached by email at: hall@bradley.edu

TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT OUTLINE

I. COURSE INTRODUCTION

August 24—A discussion of organizational matters, course structure and requirements.

II. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS

A. August 26 and 29 – Parties in an American Setting

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapters #1 and #2 (pp. 3-27, 28-61)

******* Discussion of Analytical/Research Paper *******

August 31

B. September 2 and 5 – History of American Political Parties

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapters #3, #4 and #5 (pp. 65-96, 97-125, 126-156)

C. September 7 and 9 – American Third Parties

Readings:

Possible handout to read

III. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PARTIES/CAMPAIGN POLITICS

A. September 12, 14 and 16 – National and Sub-National Party Organizations

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapters #8 and #9 (pp. 241-274, 277-296)

B. September 19 and 21 – Selecting the Party's Nominees: Presidential Nominating Politics

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapter #8 (pp. 241-274)

C. September 23 and 26 – Selecting the Party's Nominees: Congressional, State and Local Nominating Politics

Readings:

Possible handout to read

D. September 28 and 30 – Money: The Mother's Milk of Politics

Readings:

Possible handout to read

IV. TODAY'S REPUBLICAN PARTY: THE VIEW FROM THE CENTER

A. October 3 and 5 – The State of the GOP in 2005

Readings:

Possible handout to read

B. October 7, 12 and 14 – Discussion and Debate of Christine Todd Whitman's book

Readings:

October 7 – Chapters #1 and #2 (pp. 1-70)

October 12 – Chapters #3, and #4 (pp. 71-141)

October 14 – Chapters #5, #6 and #7 (pp. 143-243)

******* FALL BREAK--No Class on Monday, October 10 *******

C. October 17 – Framing Whitman in Today's Party Debate

Student Panel #1

******* EXAM I on Wednesday, October 19 *******

******* FOUNDER'S DAY – No Class on Friday, October 21 *******

V. PARTIES IN GOVERNMENT

October 24, 26 and 28 – Governing by Party

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapter #7 (pp. 194-240)

VI. TODAY'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY: THE VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

A. October 31 and November 2 – The State of the Democratic Party in 2005

Readings:

Possible handout to read

B. November 4, 7 and 9 – Discussion and Debate of Zell Miller’s book

Readings:

November 4 – Chapters #1 - #6 (pp. 1-73)

November 7 – Chapters #7 - #16 (pp. 74-150)

November 9 – Chapters #17 - #24 (pp. 151-237)

C. November 11 – Framing Miller in Today’s Party Debate

Student Panel #2

VII. PARTIES AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

November 14, 16 and 18 – Party Loyalty, Voters and Electoral Behavior

Readings:

Aldrich, Chapter #6 (pp. 159-193)

******* ANALYTICAL/RESEARCH PROJECT DUE *******

Monday, November 21, at class time

******* THANKSGIVING BREAK--No Class on November 23 and 25 *******

VIII. TODAY’S DEMOCRATIC PARTY: THE VIEW FROM THE LEFT

A. November 28, 30 and December 2 – Discussion and Debate of James Carville’s book

Readings:

November 28 – Introduction, Rules #1 - #3 (pp. 15-66)

November 30 – Rules #4 - #8 (pp. 67-146)

December 2 – Rules #9 - #12, Conclusion (pp. 147-220)

B. December 5 – Framing Carville in Today’s Party Debate

Student Panel #3

******* EXAMINATION II on Monday, December 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m. *******