

POLI 891
Party Politics and Party Organization

Fall 2019

Instructor

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Meeting times

Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 5:30-6:45
Lecture hall: Murphey 202
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 4:00-5:15

Course website: https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/poli891_fa19

Course description and aim

The course aims to provide students with an overview of current debates in research on party politics and party organization. The course takes a comparative look at questions of party organization with an emphasis on the function and behavior of parties in parliamentary democracies. It is split into seven parts:

- (1) Theoretical and conceptual frameworks
- (2) Parties and the state
- (3) Party organization
- (4) Party politics
- (5) Parties in public office
- (6) New challengers
- (7) Conclusion

The first part introduces students to core concepts in the study of political parties before turning to the more specific aspects of party organization in sections 2–6. We begin by discussing links between political parties and the state and how these links are framed in current research. Questions of party organization are the focus of the third part. Parts four and five move beyond matters of party organization to discuss party competition and parties in public office. New challengers are the subject of section six.

After attending the course, students should...

- ... have a firm grasp of current debates about party politics and party organization.
- ... be aware of core concepts and theories in the study of political parties.
- ... be able to critically reflect scholarly writing on party politics and party organization.
- ... be able to formulate research questions and develop research strategies to move beyond the current state of the art.

While I will try to use different teaching formats throughout the semester, I will typically begin each session with a short lecture to provide an overview on the subject of the day before we move on to a discussion of a specific issue.

Course requirements

Literature review (Due October 1): 25%
Literature review (Due November 27): 25%
Midterm exam (October 10): 20%
Final exam (December 10): 20%
Participation: 10%

Literature reviews (50%)

For the two literature reviews (approximately 3,000 words each), you are expected to identify three research papers from political science journals that were published after the year 2000. The papers should focus on a common issue related to party politics/party organization.

Acceptable journals are *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion and Parties*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, or *West European Politics*. Please write me an email if you want to include a paper from a different journal. The aim of the two literature reviews is to briefly summarize the papers, to critically reflect their results, and to discuss them comparatively. Details of the writing assignments are discussed in class.

Please format the papers as follows: Arial font, 12 pt., double-spaced, 1-inch margins, no color. Please ensure that your name is on the cover page of your paper and that the pages are numbered.

Exams (40%)

The midterm exam is scheduled for October 10. The exam will cover materials from the course sections "Theoretical and conceptual frameworks", "Parties and the state", and "Party organization". The final exam takes place on December 10. It will only focus on materials from the sections "Party politics", "Parties in public office", and "New challengers". Please prepare the course readings and the content of the course slides for the exams. Further information about the exams is provided in class.

You are expected to be present for both exams. The only exception is a documented emergency. If you miss a scheduled exam without cause, you may be allowed to take a make-up test at my discretion, with a substantial penalty. If you think you will have to miss an exam, please contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance and participation (10%)

I will take attendance before each class. You are allowed three unexcused absences before missing class starts to affect your grade. Every additional absence will automatically cause your grade to drop four points. Regular tardiness will also negatively affect your participation grade.

I will excuse absences due to illness with documentation from a doctor or Campus Health Services or due to University-sanctioned events with documentation. In case of other personal obligations that will prevent you from attending class, please discuss them with me in advance if you would like me to consider excusing the absence.

Course materials

All readings are made available on the course website, where I will also upload any additional course materials and slides that we will be using throughout the course.

Important dates

- Due date Literature review 1: October 1
- Due date Literature review 2: November 26
- Midterm exam: October 10
- Final exam: December 10

Expectations

Weekly readings and electronic devices

Please turn your phones to silent mode and do not use them during class. I allow the use of laptops for class purposes, but I expect you to bring a printed copy of the readings. Engaging with a text is much simpler when you have access to a printed copy.

Office hours

Everyone is welcome to come see me during office hours. You can email me too, especially if the matter is urgent and cannot wait for office hours. If you are experiencing an issue that will interfere with your attendance, especially on an exam day, let me know as soon as possible.

Honor code

The Honor Code is in effect in this class. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Code's application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

Course schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
<u>Theoretical and conceptual frameworks</u>		
Aug. 20	Introduction: What is a political party?	(White, 2006)
Aug. 22	Accountability in parliamentary democracies	(Müller, 2000)
Aug. 27	Party models	(Gunther and Diamond, 2003) (Krouwel, 2006)
Aug. 29	Party families	(Mair and Mudde, 1998)
<u>Parties and the state</u>		
Sept. 3	Party regulation	(Müller and Sieberer, 2006) (van Biezen, 2012)
Sept. 5	Party finances	(Scarrow, 2007)
Sept. 10	The cartel party thesis	(Katz and Mair, 1995)
Sept. 12	Parties as public utilities	(van Biezen, 2004)
Sept. 17	Party patronage	(Müller, 2006) (Kopecký and Mair, 2012)
<u>Party organization</u>		
Sept. 19	Varieties of party organization	(Poguntke et al., 2016)
Sept. 24	Vertical party organization	(Carty, 2004) (van Houten, 2009)
Sept. 26	Horizontal party organization	(Poguntke, 2002) (Poguntke, 2006)
Oct. 1	Parties' societal roots	(Allern and Bale, 2012) (van Biezen and Poguntke, 2014)
Oct. 3	Independent study: A US perspective on party organization	(Ware, 2006) (Rae, 2006)
Oct. 8	Review and current issues	–
Oct. 10	Midterm exam	–
Oct. 15	Professionalization of party	(Webb and Kolodny, 2006)

	organization	(Dulio, 2006)
Oct. 17	Fall break	–
Oct. 22	Conflict regulation within parties	(Bolleyer, 2016)
<u>Party politics</u>		
Oct. 24	Electoral campaigns	(Farrell, 2006)
Oct. 29	Candidate selection	(Rahat and Hazan, 2001)
Oct. 31	Party ideology	(Kriesi et al., 2006)
<u>Parties in public office</u>		
Nov. 5	Parties in legislatures I	(Andeweg and Thomassen, 2011)
Nov. 7	Parties in legislatures II	(Green-Pedersen, 2010)
Nov. 12	Parties in government	(Keman, 2006)
<u>New challengers</u>		
Nov. 14	Green parties	(Dolezal, 2010)
Nov. 19	Right-wing populist parties	(Mudde, 2004) (Kriesi, 2014)
Nov. 21	Parties with fluid organizations	(Bolleyer et al., 2015)
<u>Conclusion</u>		
Nov. 26	The future of party politics	(Crotty, 2006)
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	–
Dec. 3	Review and current issues	–
Dec. 10	Final exam	–

Literature

- Allern, E.H., Bale, T., 2012. Political parties and interest groups: Disentangling complex relationships. *Party Polit.* 18, 7–25.
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- Dolezal, M., 2010. Exploring the stabilization of a political force: The social and attitudinal basis of green parties in the age of globalization. *West Eur. Polit.* 33, 534–52.
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- Müller, W.C., 2006. Party patronage and party colonialization of the state, in: Katz, R.S., Crotty, W.J. (Eds.), *Handbook of Party Politics*. Sage, London, pp. 189–95.
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