

POLSCI 360 - Political Parties
Online Instruction
Spring 2022

Dr. Michael A. Hansen

Office: GRNQ 219

Office Hours: By request

Email: hansenm@uwp.edu

Course Overview

This upper division course on Political Parties presents an in-depth analysis on defining, categorizing, and studying political parties in a democratic context. The emphasis here will be on comparative analysis of the study of political parties. Like the comparative parties literature as a whole, our readings will focus disproportionately on the United States and Western Europe, although we will also touch on parties in many other parts of the world. With this caveat, however, the course has been designed with an eye to diversity of subject matter. Students will encounter a broad range of types of work in political science - conceptual and empirical, quantitative and qualitative, contemporary and historical, rationalist and otherwise - and the readings include both works that are, strictly speaking, comparative, and works that focus on single countries, single parties, and on no particular party at all (but rather on party-in-general).

Although closely related to certain topics in political behavior, this is a course on the institutions side of what political scientists like to describe as the institutions/behavior divide in the discipline. Our subject is parties, not voters per say. This seminar is not intended as an introduction to American politics, comparative politics, or to the politics of the developed democracies, but neither does it assume prior familiarity with these topics.

Course Objectives

This class is designed to provide a basic understanding of comparing political structures and institutions around the world. By completing the course, students will be better able to:

1. Define the concept of political party and identify examples.
2. Articulate the types of parties that exist and the ways in which they can be categorized.
3. Identify the goals of political parties.
4. Identify and define the types of electoral systems and their relationship with parties.
5. Identify other types of party systems.

Course Requirements

Online Instruction

Since the class is conducted online, attendance/participation is a difficult aspect of the course to assess. Further, several people are taking this class online because their schedules do not allow for regular, constant class attendance. Therefore, there is a great deal of leeway built into the completion of required coursework. However, it is up to you to pay attention to due dates and requirements. Finally, **you must have stable internet access for this class.** I will not at any point in the semester hear complaints regarding late assignments due to not having internet access. The level of technological knowledge for participating in this class is minimal.

In order to access content on Canvas, **you must complete a quiz dealing with the content of this syllabus.** You cannot access any material until you finish the quiz. The quiz can be attempted an unlimited number of times, cannot hurt your grade, and must be completed with a 100%. The point of the quiz is to ensure that you understand the guidelines and requirements for the class so that there is no possibility for complaints later. In addition, your completion of the syllabus quiz is a contract that both of us agree to the guidelines set forth in this class.

A note about conduct: It is understandable that the class is not face-to-face, thus there is a certain level of anonymity. On rare occasions, this anonymity is accompanied by a lack of formality or professional conduct. Please take note to not be disrespectful to other students. Further, I expect that emails to me will be accompanied by a professional header, consist of a professional tone, and include formal writing (as though it were a business email). If the emails are not drafted in this manner, I will simply not respond to them. If they are written in a professional manner, you can expect a response in two business days or less.

If you need technical support, you can contact Canvas support through the help tab on Canvas. Additional help or inquiries regarding success in the class should be directed at the Student Support Services center.

Sequential Tasks of the Online Course

The course is designed so that tasks must be completed sequentially. What sequentially means is that you must complete the preceding task before Canvas will allow you to access the following task. In particular, you must take the quiz on a topic before you can access the lectures. Likewise, you must access the lectures slides before you can access the next topic's quiz. For example, you must complete the Syllabus Quiz before you can access the first readings. Further, once you complete the first first readings you can access the first quiz.

Due Dates

There are dates in the syllabus schedule that indicate when specific sets of tasks should be completed. However, there are no guidelines regarding moving at your own pace quicker than the schedule implies. Therefore, as you move sequentially, you are allowed to work ahead. This flexibility is built into the schedule so that you can work, as much as possible given the time frame, at your own pace.

Participation = 4%

You will be required to complete one particular task at the beginning of the semester in order to receive participation points. You must introduce yourself on Canvas in the Discussion section of Canvas titled “Introductions.” I would like everyone to introduce themselves in a paragraph or two before the end of the second week of the semester (due date on Canvas). Your specific response is not graded, and you will simply receive points for completing the task.

Discussion Board Posts = 12 X 8% = 96%

After requests from students, I had decided to operate this course similar to an independent study. Therefore, there are no quizzes, exams, or lectures. There are 12 substantive weeks where there are readings. For each of these 12 weeks, there is a discussion question posted on Canvas that you must answer in the discussion section by Friday of that week at 10pm. Each answer must contain more than four direct citations to the reading(s) (page number). In addition, you must cite all readings assigned for the week if there is more than one. The discussion question response must be at least one typed page in a word processor (I will check the length each week). The responses are graded based on the quality of the post. Also, you must adhere to the citation and length requirements to receive any points. The response must be posted on Canvas as a discussion post and not an attachment. If you do not complete the discussion questions post, you may not be able to proceed in the course - as proceeding material will not unlock.

Active Learning: Interaction and Feedback

The discussion board posts are intended to provide a forum for students to process course material and apply course concepts in an interactive format if they so choose. This interaction will allow for “student - student” and “student - instructor” interactions, whereby students are expected to guide discussions and learning through specific questions. Each student is expected to provide a thoughtful response. Further, as your Instructor, I may take an active role in clarifying confusion and providing additional information that serves to advance student understanding in a given content area.

Active Learning: Student Engagement

The readings will use contemporary examples of political phenomena to illustrate course concepts. These concepts, often contentious, are designed to challenge student understandings of given issues and explore new ways of analyzing institutional performance, political arguments, and political history. Therefore, students are expected to keep up with contemporary news in order to familiarize themselves with the presented issues. Present in the lectures are discussion questions that provide the opportunity to examine and assess their own understandings of new material. This self-directed learning enables students to more fully interact with other members of class during posts, and clarifies points of confusion on which to seek further clarification. Again, these exercises are intended to guide students to increasing levels of responsibility for their own learning.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted. All of the assignment due dates, criteria for completion, and full explanation are provided well ahead of time. In addition, all of the assignments are turned in electronically on Canvas without physically being in class. Therefore, there is no excuse for late work. Makeup exams will not be allowed except for extreme circumstances.

Required Reading

All readings are posted on Canvas in their relevant weekly modules.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	= 92% - 100%
A-	= 90% - 91%
B+	= 88% - 89%
B	= 82% - 87%
B-	= 80% - 81%
C+	= 78% - 79%
C	= 72% - 77%
C-	= 70% - 71%
D+	= 68% - 69%
D	= 62% - 67%
D-	= 60% - 61%
F	= below 60%

NOTE: In cases in which a student is on the borderline between grades (e.g., 91.5), I will always round up to the higher grade, provided that you have attended class regularly and engaged in regular and active participation in class.

If you have any questions about grading policy in general, or any questions about any particular grade you received, please come see me in my office. I will be more than happy to discuss your grade with you and find ways in which your work can be improved and your grade raised.

Academic Dishonesty

I take plagiarism extremely seriously. Let it be noted for the record that cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on an examination will be punished according to University guidelines. In addition, if a paper is handed in without any citations, improper citations, or plagiarized material the paper will receive a zero, and you will be referred to the university for disciplinary action. I will assume that you either copied the material or did not complete the assignment as was required. Please consult the section on student academic dishonesty in the Student Guidebook for a listing of the practices that may be considered cheating.

It is the University's policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services for a letter of verification to provide to their instructors. Disability Services is located in WYLL D175 and can be reached at 595-2372 or dss@uwp.edu

Class Schedule

NOTE: Reading for a particular day should be done before attending class on that particular day. I have been known to randomly call on students and ask them questions from the reading. Therefore, it is in your interest to be prepared in order to receive attendance points. In addition, the schedule is subject to change based on the flow of class discussion.

Week 1: Jan 31 - Feb. 4

Tasks:

- 1.) Course announcements
- 2.) Syllabus & syllabus quiz
- 3.) Familiarize w/ Canvas course page

Week 2: Feb. 7 - Feb. 11

Topic: Ontology: Whats a party, and what are parties for?

Discussion Post Question: What is a party? How do these authors differ when it comes to identifying parties?

Reading(s):

- Morse, Anson D. 1896. "What is a Party?," *Political Science Quarterly* 11(1): 68-81.
- Weber, Max. 1946 [orig. 1922]. *Class, Status, Party (from Economy and Society)*, in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, trans. and ed., *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford UP). Read section 10 (Parties), pp 194-195.
- Schattschneider, E.E. 2004 [1942]. *Party Government*. [Any edition; mine is New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction (with a new introduction by Sidney A. Pearson, Jr.)] Read chapter 3 (What is a Political Party?), pp 35-64. Most important are pp 35-37.
- Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. New York: Harper- Perennial. Read the last full paragraph in Chapter 22 (Another Theory of Democracy), p. 283.
- APSA Committee on Political Parties. 1950. "Summary of Conclusions and Proposals". In *Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System: A Report of the Committee on Political Parties*. APSR 44(3, Supplement): 1-14.
- Ranney, Austin. 1954. *The Doctrine of Responsible Party Government: Its Origins and Present State*. Urbana: U of Illinois P. Read chapter 2 (The Case for Responsible Party Government), pp 8-22.

Week 3: Feb. 14 - Feb. 18

Topic: Ontology: Whats a party, and what are parties for?

Discussion Post Question: What is a party? How do these authors differ when it comes to identifying parties?

Reading(s):

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper-Collins. Read pp 24-31.
- Key, V.O., Jr. 1958. *Politics, Parties, and Pressure Groups*, 4th ed. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. Read the untitled introduction to Part Two, The Party System, found on pp 180- 182 in the fourth edition (163-5 in the fifth).
- Eldersveld, Samuel J. 1964. *Political Parties: A Behavioral Analysis*. Chicago: Rand McNally. Read the beginning of chapter 1 (A Theory of the Political Party), pp 1-13.
- Beck, Paul Allen, and Frank J. Sorauf. 1992. *Party Politics in America*, 7th ed. New York: HarperCollins. Read the beginning of chapter 1 (In Search of the Political Parties), pp 7-20. [This text exists in many editions.]

Week 4: Feb. 21 - Feb. 25

Topic: Taxonomy: What kinds of parties are there?

Discussion Post Question: How should parties be categorized? Is there a way that seems most useful?

Reading(s):

- Duverger, Maurice. 1954 [1951]. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*, trans. Barbara and Robert North. London: Methuen. In Book I, read part II of chapter 1 (The Basic Elements), pp 17-40, and pp 61-79 of chapter 2 (Party Membership).
- Kirchheimer, Otto. 1966. *The Transformation of the Western European Party Systems*. In Joseph LaPalombara and Myron Weiner, eds., *Political Parties and Political Development* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), pp 177-200.
- Katz, Richard S., and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party," *Party Politics* 1(1): 5-28.

Week 5: Feb. 28 - Mar. 4

Topic: Taxonomy: What kinds of parties are there?

Discussion Post Question: How should parties be categorized? Is there a way that seems most useful?

Reading(s):

- Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. "Citizens, Politicians, and Party Cartelization: Political Representation and State Failure in Post-Industrial Democracies," *European Journal of Political Research* 37(2): 149-79.
- Gunther, Richard, and Larry Diamond. 2003. "Species of Political Parties: A New Typology," *Party Politics* 9(2): 167-99.
- Blyth, Mark, and Richard S. Katz. 2005. "From Catch-All Parties to Cartelisation: The Political Economy of the Cartel Party," *West European Politics* 28(1): 33-60.

Week 6: Mar. 7 - Mar. 11

Topic: Goals: What do parties want?

Discussion Post Question: According to Downs, what do parties want? Is Downs correct? Evaluate the strength of his argument.

Reading(s):

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper-Collins. Review reading for February 2 and read chapters 7-8 (The Development of Political Ideologies as Means of Getting Votes and The Statics and Dynamics of Party Ideologies), pp 96-141.
- Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1991. *Political Parties and the Winning of Office*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P. Read chapters 1 and 2 (Introduction: A Theory of Political Parties and Political Ambition: The Motive Force of Party Organization), pp 1-46.

Week 7: Mar. 14 - Mar. 18

Topic: Goals: What do parties want?

Discussion Post Question: What do parties want? How do these scholars differ from Downs? How are they similar? Who is correct?

Reading(s):

- Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*. Chicago: U of Chicago P. Read chapter 1 beginning at p. 18 (A Theory of Political Parties) and chapter 2 (Why Parties Form), pp 18-61.
- Müller, Wolfgang C., and Kaare Strøm. 1999. *Political Parties and Hard Choices*. In Müller and Strøm, eds., *Policy, Office, or Votes? How Political Parties in Western Europe Make Hard Decisions* (New York: Cambridge UP), pp 1-35.

Week 8: Mar. 21 - Mar. 25

Spring Break

Week 9: Mar. 28 - Apr. 1

Topic: Organization: How are parties organized, and why does it matter?

Discussion Post Question: Why do people organize into groups?

Reading(s):

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP. Read the introduction and chapter 1 (A Theory of Groups and Organizations), pp 1-52.
- Wilson, James Q. 1995 [1974]. *Political Organizations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP. Read chapters 2-3 and 6 (Rationality and Self-Interest, Organizational Maintenance and Incentives, Political Parties), pp 19-55, 95-118.

Week 10: Apr. 4 - Apr. 8

Topic: Electoral Systems and Number of Parties

Discussion Post Question: What electoral system is more conducive for democracy?

Reading(s):

- van der Eijk, Cees and Mark N. Franklin. 2009. *Elections and Voters*. Palgrave Publishing. Chapters 3 and 5.
- Riker, William H. 1986. *Duverger's Law Revisited*. In Bernard Grofman and Arend Lijphart, eds., *Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences* (New York: Agathon), pp 19-42.
- Laakso, Markku, and Rein Taagepera. 1979. "Effective Number of Parties: A Measure With Application to West Europe," *Comparative Political Studies* 12(1): 3-27.
- Taagepera, Rein, and Bernard Grofman. 1985. "Rethinking Duverger's Law: Predicting the Effective Number of Parties in Plurality and PR Systems Parties Minus Issues Equals One," *European Journal of Political Research* 13: 341-52.

Week 11: Apr. 11 - Apr. 15

Topic: Party Systems

Discussion Post Question: What types of party systems exist in the world? Are some party systems better than others?

Reading(s):

- Pettit, Robin T. 2014. *Contemporary Party Politics*. Palgrave Publishing. Ch. 2

Week 12: Apr. 18 - Apr. 22

Topic: Party Ideologies

Discussion Post Question: What types of ideologies do parties espouse? What determines party ideology?

Reading(s):

- Pettit, Robin T. 2014. *Contemporary Party Politics*. Palgrave Publishing. Ch. 4
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper-Collins. pp 96-141.

Week 13: Apr. 25 - Apr. 29

Topic: Voters, Parties, & Elections

Discussion Post Question: What is the relationship between voters and parties? What stands out as being important and unimportant for determining vote choice?

Reading(s):

- van der Eijk, Cees and Mark N. Franklin. 2009. *Elections and Voters*. Palgrave Publishing. Chapters 4 & 7.

Week 14: May 2 - May 6

Topic: Political Party Campaigning

Discussion Post Question: The goal of political parties is mostly to get elected. Which tactics should parties implement during the campaign process in order to be successful?

Reading(s):

- Pettit, Robin T. 2014. *Contemporary Party Politics*. Palgrave Publishing. Ch. 8

Week 15: May 9 - May 13

There is no final exam for this course