Political Science (PSCI) 4952.01  
Political Parties (Capstone Course)  
Fall 2021  

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There is a Canvas site for this course where copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus and some assigned readings) and links to recorded lectures via Zoom.  

Please note that I will be broadcasting and recording my lectures on Zoom. The zoom link is  
https://unt.zoom.us/j/83567046323  

Also, FYI, I will be wearing a mask/face shield this semester for two reasons.  
1) Although I am fully vaccinated, like all other vaccinated persons, I am still a potential vector for spread and transmission. I do this to protect others.  
2) I am also in one of the risk categories (although it’s a pretty low risk).  

**Introduction:** This course is an advanced senior level capstone course in political science. As such it is designed to have students demonstrate critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that you have presumably developed over the course of your college career. As such one thing we will be focusing on a primary goal of this course is to review how to conduct empirical research (which can be either quantitative or qualitative) in political science, and particularly in comparative politics. Thus, we will touch upon many of the topics you covered in PSCI 3300 Political Science Research (for political science majors). There is also a good deal of reading that is required.  

The substantive focus of this course is understanding political parties and party systems. Modern democracy is above all party democracy. Parties organize electoral choices and ensure that popular priorities get translated into government policy. Mass democracies cannot do without them. This makes it important to examine what they are, what they do, how they change, and what impact they have on the operation of democracy.  

This course examines political parties from a **comparative perspective.** Although we will discuss the emergence and development of American political parties extensively, the primary focus will be on examining political parties **globally.** By doing so, this will provide the student with important insights as to why the US party system developed in the way that it did. The course is divided into four parts (indicated by the roman numerals in the syllabus)  
- What are political parties, what are their functions, and how are they organized?  
  - Topics: definitional issues; how parties related to the political system; various types of parties  
- Party Systems and Party change  
  - Topics: types of party systems; factors that structure the party system  
- What Affects Party Change?
- Topics: institutional, cultural, ideological effects on party change.
- What are the Effects of Political Parties?
  - Topics: effects on the electorate; campaigning; governance; conflict

**Texts:**
There are two required texts for this course:
There will be additional readings that will be available via the blackboard site (indicated on syllabus as CANVAS)

**Course Requirements:**
There will be two major exams scheduled for this term. Both exams are to be taken on Canvas and are TIMED EXAMS. In other words, there will be a window of 48 hours during which you can take the exam. Once you begin the exam, the timer will begin. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the first exam, and 2 hours to complete the final exam. The first is scheduled for the window of **OCTOBER 20 BEGINNING AT 2:00 PM TO OCTOBER 22 AT 11:59 PM** and is worth 100 points. **Final Exam Window is DECEMBER 6, BEGINNING AT 8:00am TO DECEMBER 8 AT 11:59 PM. TURN IN ON CANVAS. YOU HAVE TWO HOURS TO COMPLETE.** The final exam is worth 125 points and is a comprehensive examination.

In addition, there will be one major written paper assignments due on the final day of the term (December 16 by 5:00 pm)

In sum:
1) **First exam** = 100 points
2) **Final exam** = 125 points
3) One major research paper (approximately 15-20 pages), divided into parts. Total = **175 points**:
   1) A draft introduction and literature review due (October 30) = 25 points
   2) A complete draft including design, analysis, results (due Monday December 10) = 100 points
   3) Presentation of paper via PPTX voice over = 50 pts (this assignment may change)

**Total points** = **400 points**

The final grade percentage will be calculated based on a denominator of 400 points

All written assignments are to be turned in to me via Canvas

As a “capstone” course, this class will use an assessment tool, your performance on major research paper, which you will record as a research presentation using pptx and hand in via Canvas at the end of term.
The research project may be either a quantitative research design OR a complete qualitative research project. **I will provide more on this in an assignment sheet which will be distributed later in the term.** The focus must be on political parties outside of the United States.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, you should:

- Know a lot about parties and the democracies they operate in, but especially in Europe which has the greatest variety of functioning parties in the World.
- Have reviewed all the main explanations for party and party systems development
- Be able to offer reasoned judgments on the workings of party democracy across the world.

**Schedule of lecture topics and readings:**

August 23: Introduction to the Class: (no readings)

**Overview of the Research Process**

August 25: Go over research process, and some examples of research questions.

1) Read Leanne Powner “From Research Topic to Research Question” *Empirical Research and Writing* Chp 1(on Canvas)

August 30- September 8: Understanding the research process (no class on September 6)


2) Powner chps 2,3,4,7 (on Canvas)

**I. What are political parties, what are their functions, and how are they organized?**

September 13-20: What are the functions of political parties?

1) What are political parties and their role in the political system?
   
   Readings: Hershey chp. 1

2) Structural Functional Approach to Political System
   
   Readings: David Easton, “Categories for the Systems Analysis of Politics” (CANVAS)
   Almond, Gabriel Almond “A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics” (CANVAS)

3) Functions of the Political Party
   
   Readings: Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond “Types and functions of political parties” pp. 3-7 (CANVAS)

September 22-October 4: Types of political parties (NO CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 27 – will be at a conference)
1) Historical Types of Political Parties: Elite/Cadre Parties  
Readings: Mair chps 1, 3, 4 (Lapalombara and Weiner, Duverger, Neumann)

2) Catchall and Cartel parties  
Readings: Mair chp 5 (Kirchheimer)  

3) Current types of Political Parties  
Readings: Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond “Species of Political Parties” (CANVAS)  
Peter Mair and Cas Mudde “The Party Family and its Study” (CANVAS)

October 6-11 - Parties as Organizations  
1) Comparative Perspectives  
Readings: Ingrid van Biezen “On the Internal Balance of Party Power” (CANVAS)

2) American Parties  
Readings: Hershey chps 3-5

II. Party Systems and Party change  
October 13-18  
Party systems: Comparative Perspectives  
1) Types of Party Systems  
Readings: Mair Chps. 20,21, 22, 24 (Duverger, Dahl, Blondel, Sartori)

2) What factors affect the structuring of party systems?  
Readings: Mair chps 7, 8,9, 11 (Sartori, Daalder, Lipset and Rokkan, Sartori)

3) History of the American System  
Readings: Hershey chps. 2, 7

NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 20, FIRST EXAM WINDOW: OCTOBER 20 BEGINNING AT 2:00 PM TO OCTOBER 22 AT 11:59 PM. TURN IN ON CANVAS. YOU HAVE 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES TO COMPLETE

III. What Affects Party Change?  
October 25-November 1

DRAFT RESEARCH DESIGN DUE November 1 in Canvas by 11:59 pm

1) Party systems change  
Readings: Mair chps 12, 13, 14, 15 (Rose and Urwin, Pedersen, Mair, Wolinetz)

2) Institutional effects
Readings:
Maurice Duverger, “Which is the Best Electoral System” (CANVAS)
Enid Lakeman, “The Case for Proportional Representation” (CANVAS)
Juan Linz “The Perils of Presidentialism” (CANVAS)
John Ishiyama and Ryan Kennedy “Superpresidentialism and Political Party Development in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan” (CANVAS)

3) Cultural and Ideological Effects
Readings: Mair Chps, 16, 17, 19 (Flanagan and Dalton, Inglehart, Inglehart)
Robert Ladrech, “Europeanization and Political Parties” (CANVAS)
John Ishiyama and Sahar Shafqat “Party identity change in post-communist Politics” (CANVAS)

IV. What are the effects of Political Parties?
November 3-8
1) The effects of parties on political processes: the electorate
Readings: Hershey chp 6-8
Pippa Norris “Political Parties and Democracy in Theoretical and Practical Perspectives” (CANVAS)

2) The effects of political parties on candidate recruitment
Readings: Hershey Chp 9-10

November 10-15
3) Campaigning and Party in Government
Readings: Hershey chps 11-13, 15

November 17-22
4) Party effects on integration and conflict
Readings: Kanchan Chandra “Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability” (CANVAS)
John Ishiyama “Do Ethnic Parties Promote Minority Ethnic Conflict?” (CANVAS)

Thanksgiving Break November 24-27

November 29. Putting together your research project

December 1. Putting together a voice-over PPTX presentation

Final Exam Window: DECEMBER 6, BEGINNING AT 8:00am TO DECEMBER 8 AT 11:59 PM. TURN IN ON CANVAS. YOU HAVE TWO HOURS TO COMPLETE

Final Papers and presentations due Friday December 9, 11:59 pm, Turn in on CANVAS.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS-STATEMENT OF ADA COMPLIANCE:
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

OTHER POLICIES

Late assignments: Late assignments are unacceptable and will be penalized 5% for the first day they are late, and a 10% every day thereafter. As with incompletes, extensions are given only under extreme circumstances and after consultation with the instructor – prior to the due date.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct. The short version is that we must all practice the Golden Rule – treat others as you would like to be treated. Specifically, this means that all students must treat the instructor, the other students, the teaching assistants, and the classroom setting with respect. The same is true for the instructor. Therefore:

- All potentially disruptive electronic devices must be silenced.
- Students should not send text messages, have side conversations, fall asleep, or read irrelevant materials during class. It’s impolite and distracting.
- Students should be on time and stay for the entire period.
- Please show respect for alternative opinions and points of view.
- Please note that expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums.

CLASS RECORDINGS & STUDENT LIKENESSES

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course may be recorded for students enrolled in this class to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational
purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.