

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to gain a better understanding of the role parties play in American politics today by investigating and discussing the ideas that have shaped and animated American political parties since the early years of the Republic. The course will focus, first of all, on the place of parties in constitutional government; then we will examine the major periods of realignment within and across the parties, including the election of 1800, the second party system (1830s-1850s), the sectional split among Democrats and the rise of the Republican party (1854-1860), Progressive reforms (after 1880), the New Deal Democratic realignment (1930s), and the Great Society and Republican reaction after 1960. When we examine these periods of realignment, emphasis will be on issues and ideas. At the same time, we will discuss contemporary issues that both influence and are influenced by the parties today.

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:

Students are encouraged to meet with me outside of class to discuss any aspect of the materials or topics we cover in the course.

Office: Andrews 213

Office Phone: (419) 289-5686

Email: cburket1@ashland.edu

Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:50-12:05 and by appointment

STUDENT RESOURCES:

Students are encouraged to visit my personal website at www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/. Occasionally I will post course materials online, and there are also other valuable links and resources for students posted at this website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading quizzes (roughly 25% of the final grade)

Reading quizzes over assigned materials may be given on occasion without prior notice.

2. Midterm exam (roughly 25% of the final grade):

The exam will consist of a short answer section and an essay section. In writing your exam essays, you should demonstrate that you have a good grasp of the topics we have covered in class or that are contained in the assigned readings. The exam essay should cover general themes to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, but you should also include many specific examples from the readings to back up your claims. You should demonstrate that you have been participating intellectually in and out of class and thinking seriously about the topics we have discussed.

3. Class preparation and presentation (roughly 25% of the final grade):

This portion of the grade includes class preparation, quality participation, memory of assigned readings, attendance, and in-class reports. The preparation portion of the grade may also be influenced by the reading quiz grades. **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THE READINGS BEFORE CLASS.** Discussion is highly encouraged in this course. I will call on students from time to time to explain the main points in the assigned readings. I will also address questions to the class generally, to which students should volunteer answers. This part of the grade will be affected by excessive absences as well as by failure to speak up from time to time with correct answers, whether called on or not. The best way to prepare for class is to read the assignments and make a brief outline of the main points. Then memorize your outline.

On select Thursdays, different students will be assigned to make a presentation to the class on some aspect of the assigned readings. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. After the presentation, other students in the class will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. Presentations account for approximately half of the Class Preparation grade.

4. Paper (roughly 25% of the final grade):

Students will write a paper (approximately 9-12 pages) on a topic selected from a list provided by the professor. The paper must be typed and double spaced, stapled (no binders), Times New Roman 12-point font, with footnotes or endnotes for every citation. Footnotes should be in the Chicago format as indicated in Kate L. Turabian's *Manual for Writers*. Be sure to include a cover page with the title of your paper, your name, and the course number and title.

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have grasped the importance and complexity of the question or topic. You should be as concise and specific as possible in your essays, presenting a reasoned argument in support of or against a particular aspect of American political thought. Every paper should begin with a paragraph laying out your thesis, and in the body of the paper you should present evidence that supports your thesis. This is not an opportunity for you to simply give your own opinions on matters (no "I feel" this or "I think" that); rather, you should make observations and reasoned arguments and support them with evidence from the readings assigned for the course. You may also use outside sources, but the emphasis should be placed on the primary source documents assigned for class. Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly source, and you should avoid using this in your paper. **PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN HARD-COPY FORM – NO EMAILED PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

GENERAL POLICIES:

PLAGIARISM: Any willful plagiarism on papers or cheating on exams will result in an "F" for the course. You should read the Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook or catalog. Also see the link on plagiarism at my website, www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/.

ATTENDANCE: You should make every effort to attend every class. Even if you have what you think is a good reason for missing a class, the professor retains the discretion to decide whether to count it as an excused or unexcused absence. More than 2 absences will result in an automatic 5% deduction per day from the participation portion of your final grade.

Contents of this syllabus are subject to change.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Political Parties and Constitutional Government, by Sidney Milkis (ISBN 0801861950)
- The Lincoln-Douglas Debates, ed. Robert Johannsen (ISBN 0195009215)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, sixth ed. (University of Chicago, 1996, ISBN 0226816273)
- Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed. (Longman, 2000, ISBN 020530902X)

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS:

- Other assigned readings will be included in a readings packet, which will be handed out the first day of class. Occasionally readings will be available online at my personal website (www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/). It is the student's responsibility to check the website for available readings on a regular basis. Students should print readings that are available online and bring them to class on the appropriate days
- Students should also browse the New York Times and Washington Times online daily, looking especially for articles dealing with political issues and political parties. Many relevant articles can be found in the "U.S.-Washington" and "Opinion" sections of the New York Times, and in the "Nation/Politics" and "Opinion" sections of the Washington Times. Both newspapers are available online for free (after signing up for a free account). The New York Times can be accessed at www.nytimes.com. The Washington Times can be accessed at www.washtimes.com.

READING PLAN:

WEEK 1 (8/29, 8/31) Political Parties and the Constitution – Part I

Party dominance chart
Declaration of Independence, 1776
Brutus II, 1787
United States Constitution and Amendments
The Federalist Nos. 9, 10, 51
Washington, Farewell Address, 1796
Harvey Mansfield, “Political Parties and American Constitutionalism” (recommended)

WEEK 2 (9/5, 9/7) Federalists and Republicans

Melancton Smith, “The Federal Farmer” II, 1787
The Federalist No. 37 and No. 38
Thomas Jefferson, Opinion on the National Bank, 15 February 1791
Alexander Hamilton, Opinion on the National Bank, 23 February 1791
James Madison, “Parties,” 23 January 1792
Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, 23 May 1792
Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington, 26 May 1792
James Madison, “A Candid State of Parties,” 22 September 1792
Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, 5 May 1793
Pacificus-Helvidius Letters, 1793
Thomas Jefferson to Phillip Mazzei, 24 April 1796
Michael Allen Gillespie, “Political Parties and the American Founding” (recommended)

WEEK 3 (9/12, 9/14) Jeffersonian Republicans; the second party system – Democrats and Whigs

Fisher Ames, “Falkland,” No. 2, 6 February 1801
Thomas Jefferson, 1st Inaugural Address, 4 March 1801
Madison’s Veto of the Federal Public Works Bill, 3 March 1817
James Monroe, First Inaugural Address, 4 March 1817
McCulloch v Maryland, 1819
John Quincy Adams, Inaugural Address, 4 March 1825
Martin Van Buren to Thomas Ritchie, 13 January 1827
Andrew Jackson, “Veto of the Maysville Road Bill,” 27 May 1830
Andrew Jackson, “Veto of the Bank Bill,” 10 July 1832
Henry Clay, Speech on Jackson’s Veto of the Bank Bill, 10 July 1832
Summary of Presidential vetoes
Abraham Lincoln, “The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions,” 27 January 1838
Abraham Lincoln, Speech on the Sub-Treasury, 26 December 1839
Abraham Lincoln, Speech on Internal Improvements, 20 June 1848
Democratic Party Platform 1848
Whig Party Platform 1848
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 13-34

PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED

WEEK 4 (9/19, 9/21) Party realignment: Federalism and Slavery

Webster-Hayne Debates, 19 January - 26 January 1830
John C. Calhoun, "Fort Hill Address," 26 July 1831
Andrew Jackson, Proclamation Regarding Nullification, 10 December 1832
Andrew Jackson, Second Inaugural Address, 4 March 1833
John C. Calhoun, "Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions," 6 February 1837
Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Peoria, Illinois, 16 October 1854
Democratic Platform of 1856
Republican Platform of 1856
Roger Taney, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 6 March 1857
Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Springfield, 26 June 1857
William Lloyd Garrison, "Dred Scott and Disunion," 12 March 1858
Glen Thurow, "Lincoln and the Republican Realignment"
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 34-41

WEEK 5 (9/26, 9/28) Lincoln-Douglas showdown

Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1-3

WEEK 6 (10/3, 10/5) Lincoln-Douglas showdown, continued; post-Civil War Republican dominance

Lincoln-Douglas Debates 4-7
Abraham Lincoln, Address at Cooper Institute, 27 February 1860
1860 Democratic Party Platform (Douglas)
1860 Democratic Party Platform (Breckinridge)
1860 Republican Party Platform
James Buchanan, State of the Union Address, 3 December 1860
1860 Electoral Map

WEEK 7 (10/10, 10/12) Progressive reforms

Theodore Roosevelt, "The New Nationalism," 1910
Theodore Roosevelt, "The Right of the People to Rule," 20 March 1912
Theodore Roosevelt, "Limitation of Governmental Power," 14 September 1912
Woodrow Wilson, *The New Freedom*, 1913
Republican Party Platform of 1912
Democratic Party Platform of 1912
Progressive Party Platform of 1912
Woodrow Wilson, "Wanted – A Party," 1886
Herbert Croly, *Progressive Democracy*, chapter XVI, 1914
"The Future of the Two-Party System," *The New Republic*, 14 November 1914
"The Archaic Two-Party System," *The New Republic*, 8 April 1916
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 42-71

WEEK 8 (10/19) New Deal Democratic realignment

Warren Harding, “Normalcy Speech,” 14 May 1920
Herbert Hoover, “Rugged Individualism Speech,” 22 October 1928
Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Commonwealth Club Address,” 23 September 1932
1932 Republican Party Platform
1932 Democratic Party Platform
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Annual Message to Congress, 11 January 1944
1944 Republican Party Platform
1944 Democratic Party Platform
Donald R. Brand, “Political Parties and the New Deal” (recommended)
Charles Kesler, “Political Parties, the Constitution, and the Future of American Politics”
(recommended)
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 72-102

WEEK 9 (10/24, 10/26) The Great Society and Republican Reaction

Lyndon Johnson, “Great Society Speech,” 22 May 1964
Lyndon Johnson, “War on Poverty” Speech, 16 March 1964
1964 Republican Party Platform
1964 Democratic Party Platform
Lyndon Johnson, State of the Union Address, 4 January 1965
Barry Goldwater, Acceptance Speech, 17 July 1964
Jimmy Carter, “Crisis of Confidence” Speech, 15 July 1979
Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address, 20 January 1980
1980 Republican Party Platform
1980 Democratic Party Platform
Republican Party, “Contract with America,” 1994
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 103-116

WEEK 10 (10/31, 11/2) Midterm elections review

Andrew Busch, Editorials on Midterm Elections

WEEK 11 (11/7, 11/9) Midterm elections review

Andrew Busch, Editorials on Midterm Elections

MIDTERM EXAM DUE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9

WEEK 12 (11/14, 11/16) Congress, agencies and the parties

The Federalist (excerpts on Representation, Separation of Powers, and Checks and Balances)
Woodrow Wilson, *Congressional Government*, 1885
Woodrow Wilson, “The Study of Administration”
Woodrow Wilson, *Constitutional Government in the United States*, 1908
Herbert Croly, *Progressive Democracy*, chapter XVII, 1914
Morris P. Fiorina, “The Rise of the Washington Establishment,” from *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment*, 1989
William F. Connelly, Jr., “The Party Government School of Thought in Action” (recommended)
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 121-136

WEEK 13 (11/21) The President and the parties

The Federalist No. 58 (excerpt on demagoguery)
Wilson, “Leaders of Men,” 1889
Woodrow Wilson, *Constitutional Government in the United States*, Chap. III, “The President of the United States,” 1908 (on the role of the President)
James Ceaser, “Political Parties and Presidential Ambition,” 1978 (recommended)
Ceaser, Thurow, Tulis and Besette, “The Rise of the Rhetorical Presidency,” 1981 (recommended)

NO CLASS THURSDAY, 11/23 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14 (11/28, 11/30) Campaign Finance Reform and the Parties

Anthony Corrado, “Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974: A Summary”

WEEK 15 (12/5, 12/7) The future of political parties

Ceaser and Busch, *Red Over Blue*, chapter 6, “Electoral Reform and the Future of the Parties”
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 174-186

LAST DAY OF CLASS THURSDAY, 12/7

PAPER DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 BY 5:00 P.M.