

Political Science 515
American Political Parties
414 Blake

Spring 2000
Professor Cigler
864-9050

This course will focus upon both the subject matter and research methods found in the literature dealing with American political parties and elections. The first few sessions will deal with the development of political parties in comparative perspective, viewing the U.S. party system as a special case within a broad general framework. The next part of the course will concentrate upon recent U.S. electoral behavior, with emphasis upon recent and upcoming elections and their meaning for the future of American politics. The last part of the course will focus upon specific and contemporary aspects of the American party system such as the recruitment of political activists, political campaigning, the nomination process, the role of the executive as party leader, the impact of TV on the political process, and the future of the American two-party system.

Course Requirements - Undergraduate and Graduate

Each student will have several responsibilities. First, each will be expected to attend class meeting and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Second, all students will be required to take a mid-term and a second exam covering material since the mid-term, both essay in form. Third, a set of papers will be required dealing with this spring's presidential primaries and caucuses. The exams will each count 1/3 of the course grade, and papers together will count 1/3. Graduate students in a political science or American studies degree program will have a paper assignment, and should see the instructor early in the semester concerning the nature of the second paper. No incompletes will be given in the course.

Required Readings

All readings on the outline are required and those in books are on reserve in the Watson Library Reserve Reading Room. Required articles from journals or periodicals can be found in three locations: (1) the reserve room in the library; (2) in the section marked "POLs 515" in the Ethan Allen Reading Room in Blake Hall (Room 512), in the library at the journalism School. Material on reserve is noted with an (*). I have asked the bookstore to stock copies of the following, which, for convenience sake, you should purchase.

Herbert Asher, Polling and the Public (CQ Press), paperback.

William J. Keefe, Parties, Politics and Public Policy in America (8th ed.), CQ Press, paperback

Sandy Maisel, ed., The Parties Respond: Changes in American Parties and Campaigns (3rd ed), Westview Press, paperback.

ASSIGNMENTS

I. INTRODUCTORY MEETING

II. APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF PARTIES

III. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTY SYSTEMS - GENERAL THEORIES

*Anthony Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy, pp. 114-141.

IV.(a) DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM - GENERAL FACTORS

Maisel, chapter 1.
Keefe, pp. 2-18, 40-79.

IV.(b) DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM - IMPORTANCE OF THE BALLOT

V.(a) THE AMERICAN VOTER - METHODS OF STUDY

Polling and the Public, all.

V.(b) THE AMERICAN VOTER - SOCIALIZATION FACTORS

*Jonathan Cohn, "A Lost Political Generation," The American Prospect (Spring 1992), pp. 30-38.

*Robert D. Putnam, "The Strange Disappearance of Civic America," The American Prospect (Winter 1996), pp. 34-48.

V.(c) THE AMERICAN VOTER - THE PROBLEM OF TURNOUT

Keefe, pp. 172-194.

V.(d) THE AMERICAN VOTER - TRADITIONAL EXPLANATORY FACTORS

Keefe, pp. 194-210,
Maisel, chapter 5.

V.(e) THE AMERICAN VOTER - CHANGE-INDUCING ELEMENTS

*Gerald Sellers, "The Equilibrium Cycle in Two-Party Politics," Public Opinion Quarterly, Spring 1965, [pp. 16-

37.

VI. THE RISE AND DEMISE OF THE NEW DEAL PARTY SYSTEM

Maisel, chapter 6.

VII. WHERE THE PARTY SYSTEM IS HEADED

Maisel, chapters 9, 15 and 16.

*Peter Beinart, "Battle for the `Burbs' ," The New Republic
Oct. 19, 1998, pp. 25-29

*Allan J. Cigler and Burdett Loomis, "Kansas" The
Christian Right and the New Mainstream of Republican
Politics," in Mark Rozell and Clyde Wilcox, eds. God at
the Grassroots (Rowman and Littlefield, 1997), pp. 207-
222.

MIDTERM EXAM

VIII. THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT OF THE PARTY BATTLE

IX. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

Maisel, chapter 4

X. NOMINATION PROCEDURE AND STRATEGIES IN AMERICAN
POLITICS

Keefe, chapter 3 (pp. 80-127)

Maisel, chapters 7 and 8

XI. MONEY, POLITICS AND PARTIES

Keefe, chapter 4 (pp.128-171)

Maisel, chapter 10

Cigler, "The Kansas 3rd District House Race," in David
Magleby, ed. Outside Money: Soft Money and Issue Advocacy
in the 1998 Elections (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), pp.
112-130.

XII. THE MASS MEDIA, POLITICS AND THE PARTIES

*Meyrowitz, "Lowering the Political Hero to Our
Level"

Maisel, chapter 11.

XIII. PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

*Allan J. Cigler "Political Parties and Interest Groups: Competitors, Collaborators, and Uneasy Allies," in Eric M. Uslaner, ed., American Political Parties (Peacock Press, 1993), pp. 407-433.

XIV. AMERICAN PARTY ORGANIZATION

Maisel, chapters 2 and 3

XV. STAFFING THE PARTY SYSTEM - PATHWAYS TO PUBLIC AND PARTY OFFICE

XVI. PARTY IN OFFICE - INFLUENCE ON THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Keefe, pp. 218-245
Maisel, chapters 12 and 13

XVII. PARTY IN OFFICE - INFLUENCE ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Keefe, pp. 246-261
Maisel, chapter 14

*Kathryn Dunn Tenpas, "Promoting President Clinton's Policy Agenda: DNC as Presidential Lobbyist," American Review of Politics vol. 17 (Fall 1996), pp. 283-298.

XVIII. PARTY IN OFFICE - INFLUENCE ON THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

XIX. THE FUTURE OF PARTIES IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

Keefe, 262-315
