

Political Science 142a-- U.S. Political Parties

Winter 1998
1209b Bunche
MW 12-1:50

Professor Paul Frymer
3254 Bunche Hall
825-1750, pfrymer@ucla.edu
Office Hours: W 2-4

This class takes a look at the continuing role political parties play in American politics. The class will examine this role theoretically. For instance, what are parties? Why do they behave the way they do? What impact does their behavior have for group representation? The course will also examine the role of parties more pragmatically. What impact do they have for national legislation and voting behavior? Why is there so much corruption these days in electoral politics? Why so many scandals and seemingly constant gridlock? Why do so few people vote?

Course Requirements: To pass the course you are required to take an in-class midterm (worth 30% of your overall grade), write a 5-7 page paper (on a topic to be discussed in class, worth 30%), and take an in-class final exam (worth 40%).

Course Readings: A course reader is available at Mozena Copiers. In addition, you should purchase Sandy Maisel, *The Parties Respond*, (3d edition); John Aldrich, *Why Parties?* J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*; and Anonymous, *Primary Colors*. Readings will also be available on reserve.

Course Outline

4/6: Introduction: Do Parties Matter? Dimensions of Party Involvement in US Politics

Maisel, chapter 16–Maisel, “Political Parties on the Eve of the Millennium.”
Leon Epstein, “A Scholarly Commitment to Parties.” [reader]
V.O. Key, *Southern Politics*, chapter 14. [reader]
Martin Shefter, *Political Parties and the State*, chapter 1. [reader]

4/8: What is a Political Party? The Major Parties and Their Voters in the 1990s

Maisel, chapter 15–Shribman, “Era of Pretty Good Feelings: The Middle Way of Bill Clinton and America’s Voters.”
Handouts from *New York Times*.

4/13-4/15: Primaries and the role of the media

Anonymous, *Primary Colors*.

Maisel, chapter 7--Maisel et al, "The Continuing Importance of the Rules of the Game: Subpresidential Nominations of 1994 and 1996."

Maisel, chapter 8--Dodenhoff and Goldstein, "Resources, Racehorses, and Rules: Nominations in the 1990s."

Thomas Patterson, *Out of Order*, selections. [reader]

4/20-4/22: Congressional and Presidential Elections

Maisel, chapter 3--Herrnson, "National Party Organizations at the Century's End."

Maisel, chapter 9--Crotty, "Political Parties in the 1996 election."

Maisel, chapter 10--Sorauf, "Political Parties and the New World of Campaign Finance."

Maisel, chapter 11--Kerbel, "Parties in the Media."

4/27-4/29: Parties in government: The Legislative Process

Maisel, chapter 12--Sinclair, "Party Oriented Congressional Parties in the 1990s."

Maisel, chapter 13--Brady and Buckley, "Coalitions and Policy in the US Congress."

David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. Selections. [reader]

Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances*, chapter 6. [reader]

5/4: Midterm #1

5/6: Film-- "Daley: The Last Boss" (1996)

5/11: Why Two Parties?

John Aldrich, *Why Parties?* Chapters 1-5.

5/13-5/20: US Parties in Comparative Perspective--Electoral Laws and Group Representation

Arend Lijphart, *Democracies*., Selections. [reader]

Lani Guinier, "The Representation of Minority Interests," in Peterson (ed.) *Classifying by Race*. [reader]

Kenneth Benoit and Kenneth Shepsle, "Electoral Systems and Minority Representation," in Peterson (ed.) *Classifying by Race*. [reader]

Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances*, chapter 2. [reader]

Joseph Zimmerman, "Alternative Voting Systems for Representative Democracy,"

PS (December, 1994).

5/25: Parties in their Hey-day--the Rise and Fall of US Voter Turnout

Martin Shefter, *Political Parties and the State*, chapter 4. [reader]

Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, *Why Americans Don't Vote*. [reader]

5/27-6/1: Realignments and Party Systems in the 19th and early 20th Centuries

J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*

6/3-6/8: The Post-1960s: Are We in the Midsts of a Partisan Realignment? Dealignment?

Aldrich, *Why Parties?* Chapter 8.

Martin Wattenberg, *Decline of American Political Parties*. [reader]

John Coleman, "Party Organizational Strength and Public Support for Parties." *American Journal of Political Science*. [reader]

Morris Fiorina, *Divided Government*. [reader]

Paul Frymer, "The 1994 Electoral Aftershock: Dealignment or Realignment in the South."

Klinkner (ed.) *Midterm: The 1994 Election in Context*.

6/10: Review

6/19: *Final Exam*, 11:30-2:30.