

POL 231  
Spring 2002  
T, Th 11-12:15  
Econ 405

Professor Barbara Norrander  
Office: 326 Social Science  
Office hours: T, Th 1:35-3:15  
Office phone: 621-8986  
E-mail: [norrande@u.arizona.edu](mailto:norrande@u.arizona.edu)  
Homepage: <http://www.u.arizona.edu/~norrande>

TA: Devereaux Howe

Office: 315A Social Science  
Office hour:  
Office phone:  
E-mail: [dshowe@email.arizona.edu](mailto:dshowe@email.arizona.edu)

### **Political Parties**

To introduce students to the nature of political parties in the United States, this class will explore the role of parties in citizens' beliefs and actions, in elections, and in government. Recent changes in parties and elections will be highlighted throughout the course. The course requires student participation in developing knowledge about political parties by analyzing public opinion polls, congressional voting, and webpages. Data are available in the MicroCase workbook.

#### **Required Text:**

Beck & Hershey, *Party Politics in America*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition  
Pomper, *The Election of 2000*  
Corbett & Norrander, *American Government: Using MicroCase Explorer*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition

#### **Course Requirements:**

Homework and Class Participation		10% of final grade
Exam 1	Feb. 19	30% of final grade
Exam 2	March 26	30% of final grade
Final	May 9 (Tuesday) 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	30% of final grade

Students should expect frequent assignments on analyzing public opinion data or using the Internet to explore political parties and elections. Each assignment will be worth 10 points if turned in by the end of class on the day it is due. Late assignments will receive at maximum half credit. Late is anytime after class on the day the assignment is due. MicroCase assignments must be accompanied by a one page printout which includes your name preprinted by the

program. Students may skip one assignment, or if they complete all assignments, have their lowest score dropped. At the end of the course, students' scores from all assignments will be added together to constitute 10% of the final grade.

Make-up exams for full credit are given only with written documentation of the emergency or illness that prevented the student from taking the test at the scheduled time. Students missing exams without documented proof of an emergency or illness will have 20 points deducted from their make-up exams.

No incomplete grades will be given in this course. No extra credit assignments are given. Students' final grades are based on the weighted averages of points as listed above.

Date	Topic & Assignments	Readings
January 10	Introduction to Political Parties	
January 15	Political Parties in America	Beck, ch. 1 Pomper, ch. 1
January 17 & 22	Class meets in computer lab (Social Science 224) Lab Group 1 = January 17 Lab Group 2 = January 22 Exercise 1 due January 24	
January 24 & 29	Party Systems & History	Beck, ch. 2
January 31	Optional lab (Social Science 224) Exercise 2 due February 5	
February 5	Party Organizations	Beck, ch. 3 & 4
Feb 7	Party Activists	Beck, ch. 5
Feb. 12 & 14	Nomination Politics Exercise 9 due February 12	Beck, ch. 9 & 10 Pomper, ch. 2
Feb 19	Exam 1	
Feb. 21 & 26	Party Identification Assignment from class webpage due 2/26	Beck, ch. 6 & 7
Feb 28, March 5	Participation Exercise 8 due Feb. 28	Beck, ch. 8

March 7	Optional Lab (Social Science 224) Exercise 10 due March 19	
March 19 & 21	Legal Structures & Finance Laws	Beck, ch. 11 & 12 Pomper, ch. 5
March 26	Exam 2	
March 28 April 2	Presidential Elections Assignment from class webpage due 4/2	Pomper, ch. 3, 4, 6
April 4 & 9	Congressional Elections	Pomper, ch. 7
April 11 & 16	Party in Legislature Exercise 12 due 4/11	Beck. ch. 13
April 18 & 23	Party in Executive and Judicial Branches	Beck, ch. 14
April 25	Optional Lab (Social Science 224) Exercises 13 & 14 due April 30	
April 30	Party Government	Beck, ch. 15 & 16 Pomper, ch. 8
May 9, 11 - 1	Final Exam	