

Parties, Campaigns and Elections

<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~donovan/ps450.html>

Political Science 450
Parties, Campaigns and Elections
T, Th 10 am - 12 pm
Office hrs: M & W 11 – 12 & by arrangement

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Course themes: Political systems are often characterized by highly stable, institutionalized competition between private organizations known as political parties. Campaigns and elections typically take place within a framework of this long-term stability. To understand electoral competition and electoral change, we must examine the long-term, institutional and structural aspects of the party system. Thus, we focus here on party systems, partisan coalitions, and attachments that voters have (or don't have) to parties. We also examine why nations have different types of party systems, and how American parties select their nominees for the ballot. This class focuses on mostly (but not exclusively) on American elections. The comparative version of the class (PS 453) is offered occasionally

In addition, we examine the dynamics of electoral competition, factors that influence electoral behavior, and the prospect for short-term change. We also examine the prospects longer-term changes in the present political order. Since we have just completed a recent US presidential election, we will spend some time applying the material to that context. We will also study proposals for new electoral rules and political reforms that have been proposed for the U.S.

Course tasks: This course is structured in a lecture/discussion format. Some meetings will be set aside as discussions, with topics (and relevant readings) announced in advance. Students will be graded based upon a research paper and comprehension of reading and lecture materials. Students are expected to have the assigned readings completed prior to class. Examinations will be written in essay and/or short answer formats. The paper assignment will be discussed in class.

Grading:

mid-term examination	30%
final examination	30%
paper	30%
participation	10%

Course Texts: You will need the following texts:

Dalton, Russell. 2006. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. (4th Edition). Chatham House.

Fiorina, Morris P. 2006. *Culture War? The Myth of A Polarized America*. (2nd Edition). Pearson/Longman. [any edition is fine].

Wayne, Stephen J. 2008. *The Road to the White House 2008*. (8th Edition). Thompson/Wadsworth.

A number of required readings are on reserve in Wilson Library, and others are available on-line (via the WWU library) at JSTOR.

Lecture Topics/Course Outline

Dates Subject to Change

I. Nomination Contests and Rules

Jan 6 - 13

A. Overview of the 2008 Nomination Contests

Read: Wayne; "Presidential Selection: A Historic Overview" (Chapter 1)

Read: Wayne, "Party Rules and their Impact" (Chapter 4)

Recommended: Donovan and Bowler, 2004. "The Nomination Process, or Who Gets on the Ballot" From *Reforming the Republic*. (**email**)

B. Why Iowa, Why New Hampshire, and Does it Matter?

Read: Wayne, "Reforming the Electoral System" (Chapter 10 p. 343-350)

Recommended: Donovan and Hunsaker, 2009. "Beyond Expectations: Effects of Early Elections in US Presidential Nomination Contests." PS: Political Science and Politics. (email).

C. Did Rush Limbaugh Elect Barack Obama?

Recommended: Donovan, 2008: "[The Limbaugh Effect: A Rush to Judging Cross-Party Raiding in the 2008 Democratic Nomination Contests](#)". The Forum

D. The Blanket Primary in Washington

Read: Judge Burgess' decision, on WA primary (USDC of Western Washington.)

On-line at: http://www.secstate.wa.gov/office/bp/bpopinion_full.pdf

E. Party Conventions

Read: Wayne, "Spring Interregnum: Consolidating Victory and Posturing for the Election" (Chapter 6)

II. Political Parties

Jan 13 - 15

A. Party Systems in the US and Europe

Read: Dalton, "Elections and Political Parties" (Chapter 7).

Read: Katz, R. and P. Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." *Party Politics*. 1(1) p. 5 - 28. (email)

B. Attachments to Parties

Read: Dalton: "The Social Basis of Party Support" (Chapter 8)

C. Why only Two US Parties?

Review: Dalton, Elections and Political Parties (Chapter 7)

Read: D. Amy, "Types of Voting Systems" On-line at:

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/polit/damy/BeginnningReading/types.htm>

Recommended: Riker, William. 1982. "The Two Party System and Duverger's Law" *American Political Science Review*. 76(4):753-66. (JSTOR)

D. "Minor Parties" in Comparative Perspective

Read: Burden, Barry. 2001. "Did Ralph Nader Elect George W. Bush? Analysis of Minor Parties in the 2000 Presidential Election." Paper presented at the American Political Science Association meetings. (email)

Recommended: Read: "Far Right Politics in Europe" On-line at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gall/0,8542,711990,00.html>

No class January 20th

III. Campaigns

Jan. 22 - 27

A. Campaign Finance Rules and Reforms

Read: Wayne, "Campaign Finance" (Chapter 3)

Read: Wayne, "Reforming the Electoral System" (Chapter 10 p. 350-55)

Recommended: Squire, Pev. 1995. "Candidates, Money and Voters - Assessing the State of Congressional Elections Research." *Political Research Quarterly*. (JSTOR)

Read: Donovan and Bowler. 2004. "Campaign Finance" Chapter 8 from *Reforming the Republic*. (email)

B. What Effects Competitive Elections?

Read: Wayne, "Organization, Strategy and Tactics (Chapter 7).

Read: Fiorina: Culture Wars (Chapters 1, 2 & 3)

Recommended: Donovan, 2008. "A Goal for Reform: Make Elections Worth Stealing." PS: Political Science and Politics (on-line)

C. What Effects of Negative Campaigns?

Read: Excerpt from Ansolabehere and Iyengar, *Going Negative*

<http://pcl.stanford.edu/common/docs/research/iyengar/1996/goingneg.html>

IV. Political Participation

Jan. 29 - Feb 3

A. Who Votes?/The Paradoxes of Voter Turnout

Read: Wayne, "The Political Environment" (Chapter 3)

Read: Dalton, "Political Participation" (Chapter 3).

B. Social Groups as a Basis for Active Citizens

Read: Putnam, "Bowling Alone" in *Journal of Democracy*. At:

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/DETOC/assoc/bowling.html>

Recommended: Read Putnam, "Tuning in, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America. In *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

C. Participation Bias in American Politics

Read: K. Schlozman, et al "The Big Tilt" in *The American Prospect* at:

http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=the_big_tilt

Recommended: "Lower Class Mobilization.." Hill, Rinquist and Hinton-Anderson, *American Journal of Political Science*, Feb. 1995. On **JSTOR**

D. TBA

Read: TBA

V. Voting

Feb 5 - 10

A. Partisans vs. Independents

Read: Dalton "Partisanship and Electoral Behavior" (Chapter 9).

Recommended: Bowler et al, Independent's Day (**email**)

B. Theories of Voter Choice

Read: Dalton, "Attitudes and Electoral Behavior (Chapter 10).

C. Is America Polarized?

Read: Fiorina, *Culture Wars* (Chapters 3, 4, & 5)

MIDTERM on or ABOUT FEB 12th

VI. Congressional Elections

Feb. 17 - 19

A. Patterns in Midterm Elections

Read: Donovan and Bowler, "Pathologies of Congressional Elections" (Chpt. 3)
(email)

B. The State of US House Races

Read: Donovan and Bowler, "Electing the Congress" (Chapter 4) **(email)**

C. Soft Money Case Study

Recommended: Donovan and Morrow. 2001 "The 2000 Washington 2nd Congressional District Race" In *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 43(2) p. 275
(JSTOR)

VII. Presidential Elections

Feb. 24 - 26

A. The Electoral College

Read: Wayne, Reforming the Electoral System, Chapter 10 p. 356 - 69.
Recommended: Donovan and Bowler "Electing the President" (Chapter 5).

B. The 2008 Contest in Perspective: What sort of Change?

Read: Wayne, "Understanding Presidential Elections (Chapter 9)
Recommended: Wayne, "Media Politics" (Chapter 8)

C. The 2000 & 2004 Presidential Elections: Who won?

VIII. Public Opinion

March 3 (no class March 5)

A. Value Change

Read: Dalton "Protest Politics" (Chapter 4)
Read: Dalton, "Values in Change" (Chapter 5)

B. Trust

Read: Dalton, Citizens and the Democratic Process (Chapter 12)
Recommended: Donovan et al. 2008. Trust in Government, The United States in Comparative Perspective **(email)**

IX. Elections and Minorities

Mar. 10th

A. Minority Representation and Election Systems in the US

Read: TBA (On-line)

B. Prospects for Multiparty Politics in the US

Recommended, read: Donovan, et. al “O Other, Where art Thou?: Support for PR in the US.” On line at: <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~donovan/oother.pdf>

Review for Final

Mar. 12th

Paper Due: To be announced in class

Final Exam: As scheduled by the university