

**POLS 3387**  
**Parties, Interests, & Lobbying**  
**Fall 2024**  
**(Hybrid 33% Online)**

Instructor: Dr. April A. Johnson  
Class Time: Mon/Wed 2:30pm – 3:20pm + 33% Online  
Class Location: Social Sciences Building, Room 1020  
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
Office Location: Social Sciences Building, Room 5056  
E-Mail: [ajohn551@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ajohn551@kennesaw.edu) (preferred)  
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### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course seeks to provide students with a solid background in the history, organization, and function of American political parties and interest groups. Much of the course will explore modern partisan dynamics and implications for the future political climate. Some of the topics we will discuss include the relationship between individual Congress members and party leaders, the lobbying efforts of national and local advocacy groups, changing bases of electoral support, the interdependence between American political parties and the mass media, and the ever-changing landscape of campaign finance. At the end of this course students should be able to 1) describe how and why political parties form, 2) understand the nature and functions of pressure groups, 3) identify the strategies parties and interest groups use in order to influence policy, 4) recognize the ways in which parties respond to and shape public opinion, and 5) evaluate the increasingly partisan nature of American politics. Analytical thinking and in-depth inquiry are essential to the structure of this course. *Prerequisite Course(s): POLS 1101 American Government*

### **Hybrid Nature**

This is a 33% hybrid course, which means 2/3 of the curriculum will be held in the classroom and 1/3 of the curriculum will be held via activities in D2L. These activities, which might otherwise be completed in-class, consist of discussion posts and quizzes. See the course schedule for more information.

### **Required Texts**

1) Hershey, Marjorie Randon. 2021. *Party Politics in America*, 18<sup>th</sup> Ed. Routledge: Boston, MA. ISBN: 9780367472573

\*\*\*Note: Our textbook in this course is a [DAY ONE ACCESS](#) item. By default, these materials will be accessible to you on the first day of classes via [D2L Brightspace](#). *The cost of these materials will be billed to your student account; therefore, you do not need to purchase the*

*textbook elsewhere.* You will receive an email from [no-reply@verbasoftware.com](mailto:no-reply@verbasoftware.com) one week before classes start, containing information on how much your materials are as well as how to Opt-Out of this program. You will receive subsequent emails with this information on the first day of class and the day before to opt out. By Opting-Out, you will be refunded and you will lose access to these digital materials and must purchase them elsewhere.

2) In addition to the required textbook listed above, we will be referencing many supplemental news stories and journal articles. These supplemental, required readings are posted within each module in D2L. See the course schedule for more details.

## Evaluation of Course Objectives

**At-Home Activities:** As a hybrid course, 1/3 of our curriculum is scheduled online rather than in the classroom. During these hybrid sessions, students will complete an activity or assignment related to that week's topic. These assignments may consist of incorporating a current news article into a discussion post, watching a video and crafting a short reaction, demonstrating your understanding of the course material via a quiz, etc. These assignments are asynchronous, meaning you can complete them at any point throughout the week.

Given that these activities replace our time in the classroom and draw together week's worth of content, a significant amount of effort will be required in order to complete each one (i.e., do not wait until the last minute to do it). At-home activities generally open on Mondays and are due Sundays by 11:59pm. At-Home Activities (discussion boards and quizzes) can be accessed in D2L by clicking on the appropriate Module tab or by navigating to the Discussions and/or Quizzes tabs.

**Papers:** Each student will be required to write one 10-page midterm paper and one 10-page final paper in which they analyze and evaluate the concepts we have covered. Instructions for these written assignments will be distributed roughly three weeks before each is due. Papers should be uploaded to the appropriate Dropbox in D2L by the deadline listed. Dropboxes may be accessed through the Assignments tab in D2L.

**Attendance/Participation/Professionalism:** Students are given one excused absence per semester, no questions asked. In general, I expect students to come to each class, to be attentive, and to be engaged in both lectures and discussion. *Please note that showing up late and/or leaving early is disruptive to the classroom flow (meaning: don't do it!).*

Attending class does not equate to participating in it. Participation includes asking questions about the readings (write down questions as you read!), answering questions posed by the instructor, and responding to the comments made by your classmates. I encourage all students to think critically and to share their insights and inquiries with the class.

In addition to attendance and participation, students will be assessed on the professionalism with which they conduct themselves. Professionalism means that students are focused on course material, accountable for their own learning and respectful in their communication both inside and outside of the classroom. Incivilities, such as texting, chatting, or excessive classroom disruptions, will lower your grade in this course.

**Readings:** There is no getting around it- you MUST read for this course! Because lectures follow a seminar-like format, it is *your* thoughts, perspectives, and reactions to the readings that fuel the course. As such, students should come to class familiar with the readings for that day and prepared for an energetic discussion.

## **Distribution of Grades**

Quizzes 20% (4 total worth 5% each)  
Discussion Posts 25% (8 total worth ~ 3.125% each)  
Midterm Paper 20%  
Final Paper 20%  
Attendance/Participation/Professionalism 15%

## **Grading Scale**

A	90-100	C	70-79	F	59 or below
B	80-89	D	60-69		

## **Policy for Missed or Late Work**

Missing/late work will be accepted only under extenuating circumstances and with proper (medical) documentation. Students will generally not be allowed to make up missing coursework due to transportation, weather, travel, family and/or personal issues, though certain exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

## **Religious Holidays**

Students who wish to observe religious holidays must notify the instructor of the date(s) they will be absent within the first week of class. The instructor will make every reasonable effort to honor the request and not penalize the student for missing class and/or assignments. If an examination or assignment is due during the absence the instructor will give the student an opportunity to complete the assessment at an earlier date.

## **Accessibility and Disability Policy**

KSU provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students who require specific accommodations (e.g., extra time on exams, designated note takers, visual aids, etc.) to successfully complete this course are welcome! However, in order for the instructor to recognize these accommodations it is the responsibility of the student to officially document their disabilities with the office of Student Disability Services. *Note: Students seeking accommodations should do so within the first week of the semester, as testing and documentation often takes time.* Please visit the Student Disability Services website at [sss.kennesaw.edu/sds](http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds).

## **Electronic Communication**

Communication for this course will be sent to your official university email address. It is your responsibility to read the email in your official university email account and to do so in a timely manner. *As a hybrid course, it is critical that students log into the course in D2L and check their KSU email at least three times per week.* If you choose to forward your official university email to another off-campus account, faculty are *not responsible* for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts.

## **The Duo Authentication System**

Duo is a two-factor authentication solution supporting the security of personal and university data for campus community members. Two-factor authentication is a method of confirming your identity using two separate elements: 1) Something you know (your NetID password), and 2) something you have (your registered mobile device or landline phone). Duo provides an extra layer of security for your NetID, designed so that no one but you can access your account, even if your password becomes compromised. You will be prompted to authenticate through Duo each time you log-in to Duo compatible services. The service provides multiple options for taking advantage of this additional authentication method, including push notifications through a smartphone app, short codes delivered through the app, or phone calls. For more information visit: <https://uits.kennesaw.edu/duo/index.php>.

## **Contacting the Instructor**

If a student has questions about the material, technical issues in accessing course elements on D2L, or needs to contact the instructor for any other reason, please email me at [ajohn551@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ajohn551@kennesaw.edu). All emails will get a response within three days (72 hours). If for any reason the instructor will be unavailable on certain days the class will be notified in advance.

## **Grading Response Times**

Quizzes and discussion posts will be graded within one week (7 days) of completion and papers will be graded within two weeks (14 days) of each paper's submission deadline. Attendance grades will be updated approximately halfway through the semester.

## **AI Use Prohibited**

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this course, either in part or in full. When completing assignments students are expected to submit 100% original work, unless otherwise indicated by using proper citations and/or quotation marks. Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you, or that was created or assisted by an AI generative tool, is cheating and constitutes a violation of the KSU Code of Academic Integrity. AI generated assignments, either in part or in full, will receive a zero.

## **Writing Assistance**

The KSU Writing Center helps students in all disciplines improve their written work. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on topic development, revision, research,

documentation, grammar, and more. Appointments with the Writing Center are even available remotely (i.e., online). For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter](http://www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter), or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

## Minimum Technical Skills Needed

You will need a high speed internet connection and knowledge of how to use Desire2Learn (D2L). Developing an understanding of the discussion board functions, the assignment functions (in order to turn in papers), and the content tabs (to access instructions, required readings, etc.) will be vital. It is recommended that you access D2L from a desktop computer, not a cell phone, iPad, etc. In order to listen to videos and/or lectures you will need speakers/headphones and a compatible browser. You will also need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and the ability to open PDF files. Note that all computers on KSU's main campus satisfy these requirements.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic honesty and adherence to KSU's Student Codes of Conduct is expected at all times. Any student found to have engaged in academic misconduct such as plagiarism, collusion, or submitting non-original work is subject to disciplinary sanctions from the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. *If I suspect that a student has committed plagiarism, even if it is their first time, the student will receive a zero on the assignment and an incident report will be filed with the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.* For more information about plagiarism and prevention go to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). To view the Kennesaw State University Student Codes of Conduct visit <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

## Special Statements on COVID-19

### *Course Delivery*

KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction.

### *COVID-19 Illness*

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and contact your health professional. In addition, please email your instructor to say you are missing class due to illness. Signs of COVID-19 illness include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cough
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell

COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool in “Protecting the Nest.” If you have not already, you are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated immediately to advance the health and safety of our campus community. As an enrolled KSU student, you are eligible to receive the vaccine on campus. Please call (470) 578-6644 to schedule your vaccination appointment or you may walk into one of our student health clinics. For more information regarding COVID-19 (including testing, vaccines, extended illness procedures and accommodations), see KSU’s official [Covid-19 website](#).

### *Face Coverings*

Based on guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG), masks are encouraged based on individual preference and assessment of personal risk. Disposable face coverings can be picked up at the Office of Emergency Management at Chastain Pointe on the Kennesaw campus and Norton Hall Police Precinct on the Marietta campus. Please email [oem@kennesaw.edu](mailto:oem@kennesaw.edu) if you have questions.

## **Technical Support**

Students are encouraged to seek out resources available to them at Kennesaw State if they are experiencing any technical difficulties that the instructor is not able to solve. You can find this support at the following places:

- Student Technology Services
  - <https://uits.kennesaw.edu/>
  - Email: [studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu](mailto:studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu)
- Desire2Learn (D2L) Support
  - Training schedule, booklets, and videos available at <https://uits.kennesaw.edu/support/d2ltraining.php>
- Respondus Lockdown browser
  - [https://chss.kennesaw.edu/ode/tutorials/Syllabus\\_LockDownBrowser.pdf](https://chss.kennesaw.edu/ode/tutorials/Syllabus_LockDownBrowser.pdf)

## **Academic Support Links**

KSU offers many academic support resources including Academic Tutoring, Student Success Services, ESL Support, Writing Center, Math Lab, and Supplemental Instruction. Please look at the following link for more information on any of these resources:

<https://www.kennesaw.edu/currentstudents.php>.

## **Student Support Services**

KSU has many student support services geared particularly toward online students that can be found at: <https://ols.kennesaw.edu/>

KSU Financial Aid Office: The Office of Student Financial Aid provides assistance for students to help them meet the costs of obtaining a Kennesaw State University education.

<https://financialaid.kennesaw.edu/index.php>

KSU Office of the Registrar: The Office of the Registrar supports academic life at Kennesaw State University, from class registration to graduation and beyond. Explore this site to learn more about our core mission and find resources for students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

<https://registrar.kennesaw.edu/index.php>

KSU Bursar's office: The Bursar's Office provides the following services for KSU students:

- Acceptance of student fee payments
- Disbursements of Financial Aid balance of awards
- Administration of private scholarship funds and funds on deposit accounts
- Administration of Corporate and Third-Party Contracts
- Collection of Perkins Loans/KSU Emergency Loan

<https://fiscalservices.kennesaw.edu/bursar/index.php>

### **Privacy Policies/Accessibility Statements of External Course Tools:**

<https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement>

[https://www.youtube.com/static?&template=privacy\\_guidelines](https://www.youtube.com/static?&template=privacy_guidelines)

<http://www.adobe.com/privacy/policy.html>

[https://guides.turnitin.com/Privacy\\_and\\_Security](https://guides.turnitin.com/Privacy_and_Security)

<https://www.adobe.com/accessibility.html>

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility>

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/189278?hl=en>

[http://turnitin.com/en\\_us/about-us/accessibility](http://turnitin.com/en_us/about-us/accessibility)

### **Miscellaneous University Policies**

[Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement](#)

[Confidentiality and Privacy Statement \(FERPA\)](#)

[Campus Carry Information](#)

[Ethics Statement](#)

[Sexual Harassment Statement](#)

[University – Student Rights Statement](#)

### **Enrollment Status Statement**

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

### **Disclaimer**

The instructor reserves the right to amend or correct this course syllabus as necessary.

## Course Schedule

All supplemental readings are posted in D2L

To view academic deadlines, including add/drop dates, please visit <http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/>

### Module 1: August 12- August 18

*\*Note: There will be NO CLASS on Wednesday 8/14*

Topic(s): Why Parties?

Readings: Politics and Parties in America (Chapter 1) in *Why Parties? A Second Look* (Aldrich)

### Module 2: August 19- August 25

Topic(s): Components and Historical Development

Readings: Hershey Chapter 1

Founding the First Parties

Political Parties: Crash Course Government and Politics

View Party Timeline

*At home: Discussion Post 1 due Sunday 8/25 by 11:59pm*

### Module 3: August 26- September 1

Topic(s): The Landscape, Evolution, and Maintenance of American Interest Groups

Readings: Nownes Chapter 1

Nownes Chapter 2

Nownes Chapter 3

Organization Mobilization and Maintenance (Lowery and Brasher)

*At home: Discussion Post 2 due Sunday 9/1 by 11:59pm*

### Module 4: September 2- September 8

*\*Note: Labor Day holiday Monday September 2- NO CLASS*

*\*Note: There will be NO CLASS on Wednesday 9/4*

Topic(s): National and Local Party Machines

Readings: Hershey Chapter 3

Hershey Chapter 4

DNC and RNC: Everything You Need to Know About the Democratic and Republican National Committees

All or Nothing: How State Politics Became a Winner-Take-All World

What Redistricting Looks Like In Every State

View the Cook Political Report

*At home: Discussion Post 3 due Sunday 9/8 by 11:59pm*



## **Module 5: September 9- September 15**

Topic(s): Endurance of the American Two-Party System

Readings: Hershey Chapter 2

America is Now the Divided Republic the Framers Feared

Video: The Problems with First Past the Post Voting Explained

Proportional Representation Voting Systems

3 reasons why New Zealand has the best-designed government in the world

Browse the FairVote Organization website

*At home: Quiz 1 due Sunday 9/15 by 11:59pm*

## **Module 6: September 16- September 22**

Topic(s): Ideology and Issue Ownership

Readings: For elites, politics is driven by ideology. For voters, it's not.

The New Look in Political Ideology Research

Issue ownership cues and candidate support

Americans say both parties have core issue strengths

Take the Pew Political Typology Quiz

A Brief History of the NRA

Film: Gunned Down: The Power of the NRA

*At home: Discussion Post 4 due Sunday 9/22 by 11:59pm*

## **Module 7: September 23- September 29**

Topic(s): The Psychology of Party Identification

Readings: Hershey Chapter 6

Affect and Cognition in Party Identification

Seeing Red (or Blue): How Party Identity Colors Political Cognition

The Moderate Middle is a Myth

***Midterm Paper due Sunday September 29 by 11:59pm***

## **Module 8: September 30- October 6**

Topic(s): Demographic Predictors of Party Support

Readings: Hershey Chapter 7

Social Identity Theory

¡Sí Se Puede! Latino Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters

How We Voted in the 2020 Election

Division Does Not Imply Predictability: Demographics Continue to Reveal Little

About Voting and Partisanship

*At home: Quiz 2 due Sunday 10/6 by 11:59pm*

## **Module 9: October 7- October 13**

Topic(s): Mobilizing the Masses

Readings: Hershey Chapter 8

5 Reasons People in the US Don't Vote

What We Know About Voter ID Laws

What Georgia's new election law means for absentee voting

Video: The Founding of the NAACP

Browse LDF's current ballot access litigation

(<https://voting.naacpldf.org/voting-rights/current-litigation/>)

## **Module 10: October 14- October 20**

Topic(s): Culture War and Polarization

Readings: What Motivates Voters More Than Loyalty? Loathing

How Hatred Came To Dominate American Politics

Here's what's driving America's increasing political polarization

How partisan polarization drives the spread of fake news

In A Divided Country, Echo Chambers Can Reinforce Polarized Opinions

*At home: Discussion Post 5 due Sunday 10/20 by 11:59pm*

## **Module 11: October 21- October 27**

Topic(s): Where Do Candidates Come From?; The Revolving Door

Readings: Hershey Chapter 9

Hershey Chapter 10

The research is clear: electing more women changes how government works

An Exodus From Congress Tests the Lure of Lobbying

Peruse Open Secrets' Revolving Door data (<https://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/>)

*At home: Discussion Post 6 due Sunday 10/27 by 11:59pm*

## **Module 12: October 28- November 3**

Topic(s): Cash Rules Everything Around Me

Readings: Hershey Chapter 12

Money-in-Politics Timeline

Citizens United Explained

Money in elections doesn't mean what you think it does

Georgia lawmakers add to the growing list of bans on outside election funding

Peruse Open Secrets' data on interest group spending

(<https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/>)

*At home: Quiz 3 due Sunday 11/3 by 11:59pm*

### **Module 13: November 4- November 10**

Topic(s): Campaign Tactics and Technologies

Readings: Hershey Chapter 11

How political campaigns use your data

Video: How campaigns use big data tools to micro-target voters

Interest Groups and TV Ads: Can They Change Your Mind?

Politics and Social Media: How to Create a Winning Strategy

*At home: Discussion Post 7 due Sunday 11/10 by 11:59pm*

### **Module 14: November 11- November 17**

Topic(s): Exercising Influence in the Judiciary

Readings: Hershey Chapter 14

Appointment and Confirmation of Executive Branch Leadership: An Overview

Bias and Judging

Supreme Court ideology continues to lean conservative, new data shows

Read or Listen: How Court Nominations Polarize Interest Groups and Voters

AMICUS Act Introduced to Ensure Transparency in Judicial Lobbying

*At home: Discussion Post 8 due Sunday 11/17 by 11:59pm*

### **Module 15: November 18- November 24**

Topic(s): Party Pressures within Congress; The Pharmaceutical Lobby

Readings: Hershey Chapter 13

Examining Parties as Procedural Cartels: Evidence from the U.S. States

Partisan Effects of Legislative Term Limits

Legislative Term Limits and Polarization

How big pharma's money – and its politicians – feed the US opioid crisis

Film: The Opioid Epidemic: Who is to Blame?

Browse Open Secrets' pharmaceutical lobbying data

(<https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/industries/summary?id=H04>)

*At home: Quiz 4 due Sunday 11/24 by 11:59pm*

### **Module 16: November 25- December 1**

Topic(s): Thanksgiving Break

Readings: None

Assignments due: None

### **Module 17: December 2**

Topic(s): Semester Wrap-Up

Readings: None

***Final Paper due Friday December 6 by 11:59pm***