

POLS 4402
Political Parties
Summer 2018

Instructor: Dr. April A. Johnson
Office: Social Sciences room 5071 (Kennesaw main campus)
Class Time: N/A
Class Location: 100% Online (<https://d2l.kennesaw.edu>)
E-Mail (preferred): ajohn551@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 470-578-4973
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course seeks to provide students with a solid background in the history, organization, and function of American political parties. 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, 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) identify the strategies parties use in order to influence policy, 3) recognize the ways in which parties respond to and shape public opinion, and 4) evaluate the increasingly partisan nature of American politics. *Prerequisite Course(s): POLS 1101 American Government*

Required Texts

- 1) Hershey, Marjorie Randon. 2013. *Party Politics in America*, 15th Ed. Boston: Pearson. (ISBN: 9780205251773)
- 2) Required supplemental readings will be posted on D2L.

Evaluation of Course Objectives

Midterm and Final Paper: Each student will be required to write one 5-8 page midterm paper and one 5-8 page final paper in which they analyze and evaluate the concepts we've discussed. Papers should be uploaded to the Dropbox in D2L by the deadline listed. Late papers will not be accepted for any reason. Paper drop boxes may be accessed through the Assignments tab in D2L.

Reaction Posts: One of the key objectives of this class is to make students critical consumers of information. Critical consumption means you are able to reflect on what has been presented to you and provide a thoughtful critique. One of the ways in which this objective will be measured is through Reaction posts. Reaction posts generally require students to consider and evaluate the practical, 'real-world' applications of the theories and key terms discussed in the readings. What evidence is there of the strategic parties hypothesis in the last election cycle? Do the goals of campaign finance reform help or hinder the American party structure? During each module students will provide their written reactions to the module's required readings. There are no right or wrong answers here. Reaction posts are primarily graded on how deeply the student contemplates the issues, how thoroughly they address the prompts and whether each reaction is posted by the deadline. *Responses should be anywhere from two to five paragraphs in length.* Reaction posts may be accessed through the Discussions tab in D2L. To post, click on the desired module then click on Start a New Thread. *Note: Reaction posts are generally due Sundays by midnight.*

Participation: Participation in this course requires each student to make ten (10) total comments throughout the semester on another student's reaction posts. I encourage you to respond to a different student for each of your ten comments. Comments may include: shedding additional light on a topic, asking the student to clarify their position(s)/argument(s), providing a counterargument, citing supporting/opposing evidence, tying the post to a topic previously mentioned, and so on. Note that the professionalism with which students conduct themselves will be monitored by the instructor. Please be respectful of your fellow classmates when posting and commenting on reactions. Disagreement or criticism of another's point of view should be expressed in a civil and educated manner. To comment on another student's reaction post: Click on the Discussions tab, click on the desired module, click on the desired student's response, then click on Reply to Thread.

Distribution of Grades

Midterm Paper 25%

Final Paper 30%

Reaction Posts 30% (14 total posts worth ~2.14% each)

Participation 15% (10 total comments worth 1.5% each)

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 or 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, technology, family and/or personal issues, though certain exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.

Religious Holidays

Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the instructor during the first week of the semester. The instructor shall make every reasonable effort to accommodate the request and not penalize the student for missing assignments. If coursework is due on the date of the religious observance the instructor will give the student an opportunity to complete the assessment at an earlier date.

Disability Policy

Students who require accommodations (e.g., extra time on exams, designated note takers, etc.) to complete and participate in this course are welcome. However, in order for the instructor to recognize these accommodations students must 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. The instructor will not grant accommodations retroactively.* Please visit the Student Disability Services website at 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. ***Because this is a 100% online course it is recommended 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.

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. All emails will get a response within two days (48 hours), though if an email is sent before 10pm students can usually expect a response before the end of the day. If for any reason the instructor will be unavailable on certain days the class will be notified in advance.

Grading Response Times: Reaction posts, as well as the midterm and final papers, will be graded within one week (7 days) of the submission deadline. Participation on reaction posts will be graded after midnight of the last day of the class (July 25, 2018).

Minimum Technical Skills Needed: You will need a high speed internet connection and knowledge of how to use email and 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. You will also need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and the ability to open PDF files.

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. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

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. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. The term "collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with any other person in preparing work offered for academic credit. Students are advised that faculty routinely use online software (e.g., Turnitin, SafeAssign) both to prevent plagiarism and to assist in verifying when/if it has occurred.

If I suspect that a student has committed plagiarism, even if it is his or her 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. To view the Kennesaw State University Student Codes of Conduct visit <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

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

- <http://its.kennesaw.edu/students/index.html>
- Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
- Call: 770-499-3555
- Walk-in STS Helpdesk in Burruss 475
- Desire2Learn (D2L) Support
 - Training schedule, booklets, and videos available at <http://its.kennesaw.edu/techoutreach/d2l/students/index.html>

Desire2Learn Accessibility statement: <http://www.desire2learn.com/products/accessibility/>

Kennesaw State University Accessibility Statement: 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 with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Disabled Student Support Services via Ms. Carol Pope, ADA Compliance Officer for Students, at 770-423-6443 (V) or 770-423-6480 (TDD). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Disabled Student Support Services. In addition, please notify me within the first week of class if there are any special accommodations that you might need in order to be successful in this course. **Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement) found here:** http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html

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: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/resourcelinks.shtml>

KSU also provides many computing resources for students including for more information go to: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/computing.shtml>

Student Support Services: KSU has many student support services geared particularly toward online students that can be found at: <http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/resources/index.php> . You can also find more information on more general student support services for all students at: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/students.shtml>

Privacy Policies of External Course Tools:

- <https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement>
- https://www.youtube.com/static?&template=privacy_guidelines
- <http://www.adobe.com/privacy/policy.html>

Miscellaneous University Policies

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| Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement | Ethics Statement |
| Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA) | Sexual Harassment Statement |
| Course Accessibility Statement (ADA 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

*These readings are posted in D2L (Required Readings tab)

Date	Topic	Required Readings
Week 1 May 30- June 3	Module 1: Why Parties? Module 2: The State and Local Party Machine, The National Party Machine	*Aldrich Chapter 1 Hershey pg. 1-14 Hershey pg. 47-49 Hershey Chapter 3 Hershey Chapter 4
Module 1 Reaction Post due Sunday June 3 by 11:59pm Module 2 Reaction Post due Sunday June 3 by 11:59pm		
Week 2 June 4- June 10	Module 3: Historical Development, Characteristics of the American Two-Party System Module 4: Ideology and Issue Ownership	Hershey pg. 14-20 Hershey pg. 126-131 *Aldrich pg. 68-82 Hershey pg. 24-46 *Third Parties in America (Rosenstone, Behr, and Lazarus 1984) Hershey pg. 21-24 Hershey pg. 301-312
Module 3 Reaction Post due Sunday June 10 by 11:59pm Module 4 Reaction Post due Sunday June 10 by 11:59pm		
Week 3 June 11- June 17	Module 5: Culture War and Polarization, Mobilizing the Masses Module 6: Party Identification, Group Influences on Partisanship	*Aldrich pg. 45-50 *What 'Culture War'? (Meyer 2008) *Is Polarization a Myth? (Abramowitz and Saunders 2006) Hershey pg. 107-108 Hershey Chapter 6 *¿Si Se Puede! Latino Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters (Barreto 2007) Hershey pg. 131-148
Module 5 Reaction Post due Sunday June 17 by 11:59pm Module 6 Reaction Post due Sunday June 17 by 11:59pm		

<p>Week 4 June 18- June 24</p>	<p>Module 7: The ‘Partisanization’ of Language</p> <p>Module 8: Navigating Mass Media</p>	<p>*Frank Luntz: How To ‘Win’ With Smart Messaging (2011) *Why Democrats and Republicans Literally Speak Different Languages (Thompson 2016) Hershey Chapter 5</p> <p>*Political Parties in the Information Age (from Paletz, Owen and Cook’s <i>21st Century American Government and Politics</i>)</p>
<p>Module 7 Reaction Post due Sunday June 24 by 11:59pm Module 8 Reaction Post due Sunday June 24 by 11:59pm</p>		
<p>Week 5 June 25- July 1</p>	<p>Module 9: Campaign Strategy, Candidate Recruitment</p> <p>Module 10: The Primary System, Presidential Nomination Conventions</p>	<p>Hershey Chapter 11 *Aldrich pg. 100-104 *Libertarian Party Candidate Recruitment Manual</p> <p>Hershey Chapter 9 Hershey Chapter 10 *Presidential Nominating Conventions: Past, Present and Future (Panagopoulos 2008)</p>
<p><i>Midterm Paper due Friday June 29 by 11:59pm</i></p> <p>Module 9 Reaction Post due Sunday July 1 by 11:59pm Module 10 Reaction Post due Sunday July 1 by 11:59pm</p>		
<p>Week 6 July 2- July 8</p> <p><i>Note: July 4- Independence Day holiday</i></p>	<p>Module 11: Campaign Spending, Campaign Finance Reform</p>	<p>Hershey pg. 229-243 *A Campaign Dollar’s Power Is More Valuable to a Challenger (Vavreck 2014) Hershey pg. 243-256 *Want to Reform Campaign Finance and Reduce Corruption? Here’s How. (LaRaja and Schaffner 2015)</p>
<p>Module 11 Reaction Post due Sunday July 8 by 11:59pm</p>		
<p>Week 7 July 9- July 15</p>	<p>Module 12: The Evolving Presidency, Public Perceptions of the President</p> <p>Module 13: Parties in Congress, The Partisan Landscape of Georgia</p>	<p>Hershey pg. 284-290 *George W. Bush and the Partisan Presidency (Skinner 2008) *Presidential Job Approval Ratings From Ike to Obama (Gao and Smith 2016)</p> <p>Hershey pg. 257-259 Hershey Chapter 13 *Georgia’s Change From a Democratic</p>

		Majority to Republican Was Quick, Aided by Redistricting (Gill 2012) *A Deeper Look at Georgia's Fast-Changing Electorate (Bluestein 2015)
Module 12 Reaction Post due Sunday July 15 by 11:59pm Module 13 Reaction Post due Sunday July 15 by 11:59pm		
Week 8 July 16- July 22	Module 14: Parties and the Courts, Where to Now?	Hershey pg. 290-295 *Partisan Fights Over Supreme Court Nominations Hurt the Court's Image (Hananel 2016) Hershey Chapter 16
Module 14 Reaction Post due Sunday July 22 by 11:59pm		
<i>Final Paper Due in D2L Dropbox</i> Wednesday July 25, 2018 by 11:59pm		

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