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PSC 341.01: Political Parties and Elections

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Course Title: PSC 341 – Political Parties
Semester: Spring 2008
Course Hours: Tuesday/Thursday from 3:40-5:00PM
Course Room: Gallagher Business Building L04
Instructor: Jeffrey Doyle
Office: Liberal Arts 354
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment
E-mail: Jeffrey.Doyle@mso.umt.edu

Course Description:

Political Parties and Elections, is an upper-division political science course focusing on political parties as organizations of mobilization and political restraint, and on elections as democratic means of citizen expression as well as the means by which states can control their citizenry. We will have the advantage, this semester, of employing the 2008 presidential and congressional elections as cases for investigating questions of citizen participation, elite recruitment, campaigns, election conduct and election outcome. Major questions in this course include how the structural arrangement of electoral process shapes election choices and outcomes; how money impacts the electoral process; how citizens develop political preferences; and how those preferences are translated through the electoral process into vote choices. In all of our discussion, we will reflect upon the role that elections play in regard to democracy in the United States.

Required Course Materials

Assigned Readings:

Political Parties in America 12th edition-Hershey (PPA)

Political Parties and Elections in American States 4th edition-Jewell (JM)

Articles and Web-page readings as assigned

Expectations, Assignments and Grading

Grading:

Expectations:

Attendance	15%
Two Exams	50%
Final Exam	35%

Attendance:

Attendance is of the utmost importance in an upper level course. I will take attendance fifteen times throughout the semester with each being worth one percent of your final grade. There will be no excused absences as any one absence from this course will put you behind in the entire class and will also negatively impact your overall grade.

Two Exams:

This class will have two exams during the semester. The first will be given approximately one-third of the way in to the semester and two-thirds of the way into the semester. Each of these exams is worth 25% of your final grade. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay questions. **Blue books will be required for this exams.**

Final Exam:

The final exam is a cumulative exam, which means that material from the entire semester could be used to create the final exam questions. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay questions. A blue book will be required for this exam.

Grading scale:

A	100 -93.0%
A-	92.9-90.0%
B+	89.9-87.0%
B	86.9-83.0%
B-	82.9-80.0%
C+	79.9-77.0%
C	76.9-73.0%
C-	72.9-70.0%
D+	69.9-67.0%
D	66.9-63.0%
D-	62.9-60.0%
F	59% and below

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

All students in this course are expected to follow the University of Montana's Student Conduct Code. The code can be located at:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>

Those found in violation of the code will face academic penalties from the course instructor, the department or the university.

Course Calendar:**January**

22nd Introduction to Course
Discuss Syllabus

24th What are Political Parties?
PPA Ch. 1

29th American Two Party System
PPA Ch. 2

31st The State and the Local Party
PPA Ch. 3

February

5th Parties National Organizations
PPA Ch. 4

- 7th Party Activists**
PPA Ch. 5
- 12th Party ID**
PPA Ch. 6
- 14th Party Coalitions and Change**
PPA Ch. 7
- 19th Who Votes-and Why Should We Care?**
PPA Ch. 8

Parties, Nominations and elections

- 21st How Parties Select Candidates**
PPA Ch. 9
- 26th Choosing Presidential Nominees**
PPA Ch. 10
- 28th Exam #1**
*****Bring a Blue Book*****

March

- 4th No Class-Washington DC**
- 6th The General Election**
PPA Ch. 11
- 11th Campaign Finance**
PPA Ch. 12

The Party in Government

- 13th Parties in Congress**
PPA Ch. 13
- 18th The Parties in the President and the Courts**
PPA Ch. 14
- 20th The Semi-Responsible Parties**
PPA Ch. 15
- 25th and 27th Spring Break – No Class**

April

- 1st What the Place for American Parties?**
PPA Ch. 16
- 3rd No Class-MPSA-Meeting**
- 8th Exam #2**
*****Bring a Blue Book*****
- 10th Introduction to State Political Parties/Growth of Two parties in States**
JM-Ch. 1-2
- 15th State Party Orgs/Nominating Process**
JM-Ch. 3-4
- 17th General Election/Voting Behavior**
JM-Ch. 5-6
- 22rd State Legislative Elections/Parties in State Legislatures**
JM-Ch. 7-8
- 24th State Parties and National Parties**
JM-Ch. 9
State Parties Project Part #1
- 29th Conclusion of States Parties**
State Parties Project Part #2
JM-Ch. 10

May

- 1st Wrap Up Day**

Final Exam

- 7th 1:10-3:10 PM**
Gallagher Business Building L04
*****Bring a Blue Book*****