Spring 2-1-2008

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:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92.9-90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89.9-87.0%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>62.9-60.0%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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**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**

22\textsuperscript{nd} **Introduction to Course**  
Discuss Syllabus

24\textsuperscript{th} **What are Political Parties?**  
PPA Ch. 1

29\textsuperscript{th} **American Two Party System**  
PPA Ch. 2

31\textsuperscript{st} **The State and the Local Party**  
PPA Ch. 3

**February**

5\textsuperscript{th} **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

22nd  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***