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Spring 2-1-2008

### PSC 341.01: Political Parties and Elections

Jeffrey Doyle

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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* 12<sup>th</sup> edition-Hershey (PPA)  
*Political Parties and Elections in American States* 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Introduction to Course**  
Discuss Syllabus
- 24<sup>th</sup> What are Political Parties?**  
PPA Ch. 1
- 29<sup>th</sup> American Two Party System**  
PPA Ch. 2
- 31<sup>st</sup> The State and the Local Party**  
PPA Ch. 3

**February**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Parties National Organizations**  
PPA Ch. 4

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

#### **Parties, Nominations and elections**

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

#### **March**

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

#### **The Party in Government**

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

## **April**

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

## **May**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrap Up Day**

## **Final Exam**

- 7<sup>th</sup> 1:10-3:10 PM**  
Gallagher Business Building L04  
**\*\*\*Bring a Blue Book\*\*\***