Spring 2-1-1998

PSC 341.01: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

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Course Description

A critical analysis of American political parties in a "nonparty era" and how parties are adapting to new forms of politics. Two primary roles will be assessed - the relevance of parties in campaigns and governing. The future of the two-party system will also be debated. Particular attention will be devoted to the upcoming 1998 midterm Congressional elections.

Texts

Students are required to read the following texts which are available at the University Bookstore:


Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam I (Feb. 11) Topics I ........................................... 10%
Research paper prospectus (Feb. 18) ................................ 5%
Exam II (March 13) Topics II-III ................................. 20%
Research essay (due March 23 IN CLASS) ..................... 15%
Exam III (April 17) Topics IV-V ................................. 20%
Research essay redraft (due April 20 IN CLASS) ........ 10%
Final Exam (Thurs., May 14, 3:20-5:20) Topic VI ...... 20%

Drop/Add and Grading Change Deadlines

Feb 13 - Last day to add/drop courses for refund.
March 9 - Add/drop deadline - no refund.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are excused from a scheduled exam may write a makeup examination. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.
Research Essays

Students are invited to choose a research topic. Research paper prospectuses are DUE FEB. 18 IN CLASS.

Please note that this is to be a research paper. The amount of research undertaken, and the ability to marshal that information effectively, will be crucial in the evaluation of the paper.

The paper should range between 10 to 15 double-spaced typed pages. Papers are DUE March 23 IN CLASS. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day, including weekends. Resubmissions are DUE April 20 IN CLASS.

Lecture Topics and Readings

I  Introduction - Parties and the Political System
   Keefe, chapters 1 and 2.

II  Parties and Campaigns
   Keefe, chapter 3; and
   Ceaser and Busch.

III  Campaigns and Campaign Finance
   Keefe, chapter 4.

IV  Parties and Voting Behavior
   Keefe, chapter 5.

V  Parties, Congress, and Public Policy
   Keefe, chapter 6.

VI  Assessment of the Two Party System
   Keefe, chapter 7; and
   Lowi.