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PSC 341.01: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

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The University of Montana
Department of Political Science

PSc 341 Political Parties,
Campaigns, and Elections
Spring 1998

Dr. Laslovich
Office: LA 415
Hrs: MWF 1-2:00,
and by app't (4901)

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:

- Ceaser, James W. and Andrew E. Busch. Losing to Win, The 1996 Elections and American Politics. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997;
Keefe, William J. Parties, Politics, and Public Policy in America. 8th edition. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1998; and
Lowi, Theodore and J. Romance. Debating the Two Party System. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 1998.

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.