

### **Comparative Party politics and Party Systems**

Course Description: Political parties have repeatedly been acknowledged as a critical link to democratic governance. An open, participant-oriented, viable and representative system of parties operating within free and fair electoral procedures performs duties that make democratic government possible. Without such parties, a democracy can hardly be said to exist. This course explores the many facets of political parties and party systems, and their link to democracy.

Our first concern is with the definitions of parties and party systems. What is a party? Where did parties come from? How do political parties fit into theories of democracy? How we can classify differing party types and differing types of party systems? The second broad topic regards what parties do. How are parties organized and how are party organizations are changing? How do political parties relate to the state and society? Finally, we will explore recent trends and the future of parties.

Learning Outcome: On successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- think analytically and abstractly about political parties;
- understand the meaning and definition of parties and party systems;
- acquire knowledge of the form and operation of the political parties and the electoral system;
- analyze the primary roles and activities of the major political parties in the West and in Georgia
- demonstrate competence in the following transferable skills: conducting a systematic search of academic sources in the field of study of political parties; navigating the websites of the major political parties and organizations.

Course Requirements: This course meets two times per week. Your attendance at lecture is mandatory, and your participation is expected during times of group discussion.

Grading will be broken down into the following components:

- Class Participation: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Two short essays 20% each
- Final Exam 30%

The midterm and final exams will be given during class time on the dates listed below. The topics of the three short essays will be assigned during the semester. These essays will require you to respond to a question given by the professor. You will be asked to

state your opinion and an argument on the given topic, using the material presented in lecture and the readings.

Readings: The readings for this course come from a wide range of sources. There are two main textbooks for the course, though, from which many of the readings are drawn:

Larry Diamond and Richard Gunter (eds.), *Political Parties and Democracy*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

Richard Katz and William Crotty (eds.), *Handbook of Party Politics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2006.

### Supplementary Materials:

The following web sites are by way of illustration. Get surfing!

- <http://janda.org/icpp/> [International Comparative Political Parties Project]
- PippaNorris.com [Pippa Norris's website]
- <http://ssdc.ucsd.edu/lij> [*The Lijphart Elections Archive*]
- <http://www.lgu.ac.uk/psa/epop.html> [*Elections, Public Opinion and Parties specialist group of the Political Studies Association*]
- <http://www.psci.unt.edu/es/> [*Electoral Studies*]
- <http://partypolitics.org/> [*Party Politics*]
- <http://www.geocities.com/~derksen/election.htm> [*Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Around the World*]
- <http://hypatia.ss.uci.edu/democ/> [*Center for the Study of Democracy*]
- <http://www.igc.apc.org/cvd/> [*Center for Voting and Democracy*]
- <http://www.klipsan.com/elecnews.htm> [*Klipsan Election Notes*]

## **Course Schedule**

### Week 1: Why Parties?

Key Questions: Why do political parties matter? Why should we study parties? What do parties do?

Marjorie Randon Hershey, "Political parties as mechanisms of social choice." *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 8, pg. 75-88.

Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond, "Types and Functions of Parties." *Political Parties and Democracy*, Chapter 1, pg. 3-39.

### Week 2: What is party

Morse, Anson, "What is a party?" *Political Science Quarterly* pg. 68-81  
Epstein, Leon, (1964) "Political parties in Western Democracies," Ch.1

Schlesinger, Joseph (1994) "Political parties and winning the office," Ch.1

Wire, Ch.1-3

### Week 3: Parties and Democracy

Key Questions: Can parties help democracy? If so, how? If not, why not?

Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. pp. 176-82 & ch. 7

Richard Katz, "Party in democratic theory." *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 4, pg. 34-46

James Johnson, "Political parties and deliberative democracy?" *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 5, pg. 47-50

### Week 4: Defining Political Parties

Key Questions: What is a political party? What are the different ways we can classify parties?

Richard Gunther and Larry Diamond, "Types and Functions of Parties." *Political Parties and Democracy*, Chapter 1, pg. 3-39.

John Kenneth White, "What is a political party?" *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 1, p. 5-15.

### Week 5: The Emergence of Political Parties

Key Questions: Where do parties come from? Why do parties emerge?

Hans Daalder, "The Rise of Parties in Western Democracies," in *Political Parties and Democracy*, Chapter 2, pg. 40-51.

Susan Scarrow, "The nineteenth-century origins of modern political parties: The unwanted emergence of party-based politics," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 2, pg. 16-24

William Crotty, "Party origins and evolution in the United States," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 3, pg. 34-46.

### **Short Essay #1 Due**

### Week 6: Party Systems

Steven Wolinetz, "Party systems and party system types," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 6, pg. 51-62.

Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*. Oxford University Press, 1990. (selected chapters)

Scott Mainwaring, "Party Systems in the Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy* 9.3 (1998), pg. 67-81.

### Week 7: Party System Change

Peter Mair, "Party system change," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 7, pg. 63-74.

Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*. Oxford University Press, 1990. (selected chapters)

### **Midterm Exam**

### Week 8: Parties and their Publics, Part I

Key Issues: Campaigns, Elections, and Party Financing

Russel Dalton, Ian McAllister, and Martin Wattenberg, "Political Parties and their Publics," in *Political Parties in the New Europe*, Chapter 2, pg. 19-42

Thomas Poguntke, "Party Organizational Linkage: Parties Without Firm Social Roots?" in *Political Parties in the New Europe*, Chapter 3, pg. 43-62

David Farrell, "Campaign Modernization and the West European Party," in *Political Parties in the New Europe*, Chapter 4, pg. 63-84.

### Week 9: Parties and their Publics, Part II

Key Issues: Delivery of Public and Private Goods

Klingemann, Hans-Dieter, Ian Budge, and Richard Hofferbert. 1994. *Parties, Policies, and Democracy*. Boulder: Westview Press. (selected chapters)

Robert Leonardi "Political Power Linkages in Italy: The Nature of the Christian Democratic Party organization" in Kay Lawson ed. *Political Parties and Linkage: A Comparative Perspective*. Yale University Press 1980.

Jonathan Hopkin, "Clientelism and party politics," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 34, pg. 406-412

### Week 10: Inside Parties

Key Questions: How are parties run? The role of professional staffs and political consultants. What role do voters play? What role do professional staffs and political consultants play? How are party leaders chosen?

Kris Deschouwer, "Political parties as multi-level organizations," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 24, pg. 291-300.

Knut Heidar, "Party membership and participation," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 25, pg. 301-315.

Paul Webb and Robin Kolodny, "Professional staff in political parties," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 27, pg. 337-246.

David Dulio, "Party crashers? The relationship between political consultants and political parties," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 28, pg. 348-358.

Andrew Appleton, "The Formal versus Informal Rules of French Political Parties," in Kay Lawson ed. *How Political Parties Work: Perspectives from Within*. Praeger 1994

### **Short Essay #2 Due**

### Week 11: Parties and Post-communism

Ronald Hill, "Party Linkage in a Communist One-Party State: The Case of the CPSU," in Kay Lawson ed. *Political Parties and Linkage: A Comparative Perspective*. Yale University Press, 1980.

Herbert Kitschelt, "Divergent Paths of Postcommunist Democracies," in *Political Parties and Democracy*, Chapter 12, pg. 299-326.

### Week 12: The Georgian Political Party System

Key Questions: How well do the theories we discussed this semester help us to understand the Georgian party system? What can the study of the Georgian party system add to existing theories?

Ghia Nodia and Alvaro Pinto Scholtbach (ed.), *The Political Landscape of Georgia*. The Netherlands: Elburon Delft, 2006. pg. 85-204.

Week 13: The Future of Parties

Kay Lawson, "The international role of political parties," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 41, pg. 483-491.

Robert Ladrech, "The European Union and political parties," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 42, pg. 492-498.

Holli Semetko, "Parties in the media age," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 44, pg. 499-514.

Helen Margetts, "Cyber parties," in *Handbook of Party Politics*, Chapter 45, pg. 528-536.

**Final Exam: Date and location to be announced.**