

Professor David L. Fisk
Office: SSB 446
Fall Quarter 2010
Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 R
Course Time: 5:00-7:50 R
Location: Ledden Auditorium
E-mail: dfisk@ucsd.edu
Teaching Assistants/Office Hours:
 Scott Cederbaum (scederbaum@ucsd.edu) 1:30-3:30 M SSB 343
 Scott Guenther (sguenthe@ucsd.edu) 10:00-12:00 W SSB 331
 Derek Liu (taliu@ucsd.edu) 3:30-5:00 R SSB 329

POLI 137A Comparative Political Parties and Interest Groups

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce you to the role political parties and interest groups play within political systems. During the first part of this course, we will examine the formation and evolution of political parties, paying special attention to the tradeoffs that political parties make when campaigning for votes, advocating policy, and securing office. We will also investigate connections and relationships between party elites and party members, examining the survival of political parties in an era where partisan attachments appear to be weakening. The second portion of the course will investigate connections between political parties and party systems and how these relationships are affected by: electoral rules, societal change, and/or patterns of competition. We will conclude with a discussion of what constitutes party system change or stability.

Course Assignments/Grading: The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Midterm Examination: 30%

Game Report: 30%

Final Examination: 30%

Attendance and Participation: Due to the way in which themes will be presented in this course, regular attendance and participation is required. Students are expected to attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the assigned readings as well as participate in the course games.

Midterm and Final Examinations: The topic and due dates for the midterm and the final examination will be discussed in lecture. Please be advised that course examinations build on both lecture information and course readings. Additionally, understanding the logic of the games will be particularly relevant for the midterm examination. Both examinations will be 5-7 pages length.

Game Report: Throughout the course of this quarter, we will be playing four games which simulate concepts which are discussed in lecture and course readings. While you are expected to participate in all four games you will be asked to report on only **ONE** game of your choosing. Winning or losing in these games is not particularly relevant to your report. Your understanding of the way the game structures incentives and how this relates to course readings, however, are crucial for 1) understanding course concepts, 2) writing your game report, and 3) may factor into the midterm examination. A handout describing the format of these reports can be found on the course website. Game reports are due at the beginning of lecture a week after the game is played

in class. Please be advised that if you choose to write on one of the later games you might not receive feedback prior to submitting the midterm. **Additionally, as this class only meets once a week, students choosing to write a game report for the fourth game will also have the midterm examination due on the same date.**

Late Assignments: Barring emergencies accompanied by valid documentation, **no late assignments will be accepted.** Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will **not** be accepted. While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures.

Reading Schedule: Given that this is an upper division course which, due to university holidays will only be meeting for nine weeks instead of the usual ten weeks, the reading load for the quarter is extensive. We recognize that students have a variety of responsibilities. That said, we expect students to attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the course readings as you cannot succeed in this course without doing the readings. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session as course assignments will require students to show understanding of course readings.

Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at:
<http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf>

Books:

Required:

Dalton, Russell and Martin Wattenberg. *Parties without Partisans.*

Mueller, Wolfgang and Kaare Strom. *Policy, Office, or Votes.*

Ware, Alan. *Political Parties and Party Systems*

Reserve Readings

Note: For each unit, please read any scheduled chapters in Ware prior to reading the remaining material. Additionally, for Ware readings, read section A and skim country notes in section B based on interest. The material from Muller and Strom is intended to provide case material to present theoretical concepts explained in lecture and other readings. If you have specific interests in any particular system, please let me know.

Week 1 (23 September):

Introduction: What are Political Parties?

Ware: pgs. 1-6

Dalton and Wattenberg: pgs. 3-10

Evolution and Development of Parties: Cadre Parties

Electronic Reserves: Aldrich, LaPalombara and Weiner, Duverger, Neumann

Week 2 (30 September):

Evolution and Development of Parties: Mass and Catch All Parties

Electronic Reserves: Kirchheimer, Epstein, Pizzorno

Parties and Membership

Ware: CH 2

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 5

Game: Primitive Politics

Week 3 (7 October):

Party Organization: Cartel Parties

Ware: CH 3

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 6

Electronic Reserves: Mair and Katz

What do Parties Want? Parties and Votes

Ware: CH 11

Mueller and Strom: pgs. 1-27 and 112-140

Game: Elections

Week 4 (14 October):

Parties and Policy: Policy and Ideology

Ware: CH 1

Mueller and Strom: pgs. 89-111

Parties and Office: Coalition Formation-Office vs. Policy

Electronic Reserves: Lijphart, Laver and Schofield

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 9

Midterm: Distributed

Game: Coalitions

Week 5 (21 October):

Balancing Policy, Office, and Votes

Mueller and Strom: *EITHER* pgs. 36-62 or 63-88

Party Systems: Competition Models

Ware: pgs. 5-13 and CH 5

Electronic Reserves: Sartori

Game: Coalitions with Portfolios

Week 6 (28 October):

Party Systems: Sociological Models

Ware: pgs. 184-190

Electronic Reserves: Lipset and Rokkan

Party Systems: Institutional Models

Ware: pgs. 190-202

Electronic Reserves: Duverger, Cox

Midterm: Due

Week 7 (4 November):

Party System Change: Electoral Volatility

Ware: CH 7

Electronic Reserves: Rose and Urwin, Pedersen, Mair

Week 8 (11 November): NO CLASS-VETERANS DAY

Week 9 (18 November):

Party System Change: The Freezing of Party Systems and Realignment

Electronic Reserves: Flanagan and Dalton, Inglehart, Shamir, Mair

Final: Distributed

Week 10 (25 November): NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING

Week 11 (2 December):

Party System Change: Dealignment

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 2-4

Electronic Reserves: Mair et al. pgs 145-178

Final Examination due: 7:00-10:00pm on 10 December 2010

***Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made be in lecture.*