

Professor David L. Fisk  
Fall Quarter 2013  
Lecture Location: SSB 106  
Lecture Time: 4:00-4:50 MWF  
Office Location: SSB 325  
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 MW  
E-mail: dfisk@ucsd.edu

## **POLI 137A: COMPARATIVE POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Course Objectives:** This course is designed to introduce students to the role political parties play within political society, focusing particularly on the experiences of political parties in advanced industrial democracies. The first half of the course examines the formation and evolution of political parties, paying special attention to the tradeoffs that political parties make when campaigning for votes, enacting desired policies, 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 investigates connections between political parties and party systems and how these relationships are affected by: electoral rules (e.g., electoral thresholds), societal change (e.g., postmaterialism and the rise of new movements such as the Tea Party movement and Occupy), and/or patterns of competition (e.g., the presence or absence of extreme political parties).

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

**Game Report:** 30%  
**Midterm Examination:** 35%  
**Final Examination:** 35%

**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 and 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.

**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.

**Academic Integrity:** 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. Please be advised that under no circumstances will credit be given for any assignment which is deemed to violate UCSD's policies on academic integrity.

**Reading Schedule:** Given that this is an upper division course, the reading load is extensive. While we recognize that students have a variety of responsibilities, 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 materials

**Note:** For each unit, please read any scheduled chapters in Ware prior to reading the remaining material (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.

## **UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION**

**Week 0: (27 September):**

**Course Logistics**

## **UNIT TWO: EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Week 1 (30 September-4 October):**

**Introduction: What are Political Parties?**

**Ware:** pgs. 1-6

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** pgs. 3-10

**Evolution and Development of Parties: Cadre Parties**

**Reserves:** LaPalombara and Weiner, Duverger

**Evolution and Development of Parties: Mass and Catch All Parties**

**Reserves:** Kirchheimer, Epstein, Pizzorno

**Game:** Primitive Politics

## **UNIT THREE: PARTY STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION**

### **Week 2 (7-11 October):**

**Parties and Membership**

**Ware:** CH 2

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 5

**Party Organization: Cartel Parties**

**Ware:** pgs. 105-112

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 6

**Reserves:** Katz and Mair

### **Week 3 (14-18 October):**

**What do Parties Want? Parties and Votes**

**Ware:** CH 11

**Mueller and Strom:** pgs. 1-13 and 112-140

**Game:** Elections

**Parties and Policy: Policy and Ideology**

**Ware:** CH 1

**Mueller and Strom:** pgs. 89-111

### **Week 4 (21-25 October):**

**Parties and Office: Coalition Formation-Office vs. Policy**

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 9

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

**Reserves:** Lijphart, Laver and Schofield

**Game:** Coalections

**Midterm:** Distributed

## **UNIT FOUR: PARTY SYSTEMS DEFINED**

### **Week 5 (28 October-1 November):**

**Game:** Coalections with Portfolios

**Party Systems: Competition Models**

**Ware:** pgs. 6-12 and CH 5

**Reserves:** Sartori, Meguid

### **Week 6 (4-8 November):**

**Party Systems: Sociological Models**

**Ware:** pgs. 184-190

**Reserves:** Lipset and Rokkan

**Party Systems: Institutional Models**

**Ware:** pgs. 190-202

**Reserves:** Duverger, Cox

**Midterm:** Due

**UNIT FIVE: MEASURING PARTY SYSTEM STABILITY/CHANGE**

**Week 7 (11-15 November):**

**11 NOVEMBER: NO CLASS VETERANS DAY**

**Party System Change: Electoral Volatility**

**Ware:** CH 7

**Reserves:** Pedersen, Mair

**Week 8 (18-22 November):**

**Party System Change: The Freezing of Party Systems and Realignment**

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

**Party System Change: Postmaterialism and the New Left/New Right**

**Reserves:** Kitschelt, Bale

**Final:** Distributed

**Week 9 (25-29 November):**

**Party System Change: The Tea Party and Occupy-Reshaping Politics?**

**Reserves:** Williamson et al., Gitlin

**Party System Change: Dealignment**

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 2-4

**29 NOVEMBER: NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING**

**UNIT SIX: CONCLUSIONS**

**Week 10 (2-6 December)**

**Concluding Remarks: The Future of Parties and Party Systems**

**Reserves:** Mair et al. pgs TBA

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 12

**Final Examination due: 3:00-6:00pm on 10 December 2014**

*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.*