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Winter Quarter 2007
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 MW and by appointment
Course Time: 11:00-11:50 MWF
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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 and party system change or stability. We will conclude with a study of the role that interest groups play within democratic societies, and how relationships between governments and interest groups affect governance.

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. Any changes to the course, course readings or paper due dates will be announced in lecture.

Midterm: The topic and due date for the midterm will be discussed in lecture.

Game Reports: Choose one game on which to write a game report. You will be asked to write a 5-6 page paper which: 1) discusses how the rules frame incentives for not only your actions, but also those of other players within the game, 2) justifies your actions in the game given these constructs, 3) examines the outcomes of these games and their relationship to course readings or reality, and 4) discusses rule changes that you would like to see made if you were to play the game again. Game reports are due before the second lecture after a game is played.

Final Examination: The final examination will be a take home exam and the topic will be discussed in lecture. Final examinations must be turned in by 2:30pm on 19 March 2007.

Late Papers: Late papers will not be accepted barring emergency situations which can be documented.

Academic Honesty: All assignments in this course are individual, and are to be completed without collaboration with other individuals. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with according to UCSD rules regarding academic dishonesty in the General Catalog. Violations of these policies will be reported.

Books:

Required:

Ware, Alan. *Political Parties and Party Systems*

Laver, Michael and Norman Schofield. *Multiparty Government: the Politics of Coalition in Europe.*

Mair, Peter (ed.). *The West European Party System.*

Muller, Wolfgang (ed.). *Policy, Office or Votes?*

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

Supplementary:

Laver, Michael. *Playing Politics.*

Readings denoted with a * will be placed on electronic reserves.

Week 1: Introduction

Ware: Introduction

Mair: Introduction

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 1

Evolution and Development of Mass Parties

Mair: Part I (pgs. 25-74)

Game: Primitive Politics

Week 2: Party Organizations/Members/Activists

Ware: CH 2 and 3

Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 2, 3, and 5

Week 3: Campaigns/Votes

Mueller: CH 1

Ware: CH 10

Game: Elections

Week 4: Parties and Policy

Ware: CH 1

Laver and Schofield: CH 3

Parties and Policy (cont.)
Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 10

Parties and Office
Ware: CH 11
Laver and Schofield: CH 2 and 4

Week 5: Parties and Office (cont.)
Laver and Schofield: CH 5 and 8
Dalton and Wattenberg: CH 8 and 9

Game: Coalitions
Midterm: Distributed

Week 6: Game: Coalitions

Policy, Office, and Votes
Laver and Schofield: CH 11
Mueller: CH 12 and two case study chapters

Party Systems-Typologies
Ware: CH 5 and 6
Mair: Pages 311-350

Week 7: Party Systems-Stability/Change
Mair: Pages 285-310
Mair: Part II

Midterm: Due

Week 8: Party Systems-Stability and Change (cont.)
Ware: CH 7
Mair: Pages 185-231

Week 9: Party Systems-Stability/Change (cont.)
Mair: Pages 232-284

Interest Groups
***Readings TBA**

Final: Distributed

Week 10: Interest Groups: Pluralism and Corporatism
***Readings TBA**

Final Examination is due by 2:30 on 19 March 2007.