

PSCI T380-004: Parties & Elections

Prof. Jack Santucci
Drexel University
jas948@drexel.edu

Fall 2020

Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:50 PM
Remote (synchronous)

Office hours: <https://jacksantucci.as.me>

1 Overview & goals

Democratic government involves the formation and maintenance of opposing coalitions. This process plays out at three levels: in government, among interest groups, and within the voting population. In modern times, we can refer to this bundle as *party politics*. Which coalition gets power, if either? It depends on what happens in *elections*.

This course introduces key ideas in the field of *parties and elections*. We will focus mainly on the United States, but always with an eye to how things work in other countries. Further, are parties good or bad? Under what circumstances and why? How are they at representing America's diversity, and how might they do better? Finally, are parties changing, and what does this mean for the future?

We are living through exceptional circumstances. That was true even before COVID-19. Rather than make you read a lot, I have tried to select a small set of thought-provoking readings. These are meant to give you tools to write a good book review (see below).

Beyond teaching you about parties and elections, the course aims to:

1. Train you to read critically and find the main point of a “dense” text;
2. Help you think multidimensionally, rather than use dichotomies from popular discourse;
3. Show you how to write more clearly, because writing and thinking are inseparable.

2 Required work product

Your grade will be based on the following components. Overall, they are designed to get you to assimilate course material.

1. Reading response papers (three papers, 20% each, 60% total) – In 250-750 words, make an argument about the reading that reflects critical thinking. I will grade your papers according to the following criteria: Did you understand the argument? Does your point engage this argument in its strongest possible form? Did you go beyond just summarizing it? Finally, did you follow the guidelines outlined in this document: https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how_to_write_an_a_paper.pdf? **Due at 10 AM (Eastern) on the day we discuss the respective reading.** Late submissions will not count. Email your assignment to jas948@drexel.edu. Please use your Drexel email account. It is your responsibility to send these to the right address, ensuring they do not end up in my spam folder. Please label your email with the course number (i.e., PSCI-T380-004). I recommend writing these on readings that are likely to inform your book review.
2. Class participation (10%) – Based on attendance and quality (not quantity) of additions to discussion. Try to do two things as you prepare for class: (1) find and understand the key distinction(s) in the readings, and (2) have some sense of how they relate to key distinctions from earlier classes. Please see this for tips: https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice_for_readers.pdf.
3. Book review essay (30%) – Pick one of the books from the list below. You are responsible for obtaining this book in time to write your review. In 1,250-2,500 words, make an argument about the science presented in the book. That can focus on the likeliness of its prediction(s), ability to explain current events, applicability to history, or some other aspect of political reality. I will grade your book reviews according to the following criteria: Did you understand the argument? Did you go beyond just summarizing it? Does your point engage this argument in its strongest possible form? Does this point reflect learning based on other course readings? Finally, did you follow the guidelines outlined in this document: https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how_to_write_an_a_paper.pdf? **Due at 11:59 PM (Eastern) on Sunday, December 13, via Turnitin.**

3 Book options for the review essay

- McConaughy, Corrine M. 2013. *The Woman Suffrage Movement in America: A Reassessment*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Philpot, Tasha S. 2017. *Conservative but Not Republican: The Paradox of Party Identification and Ideology among African Americans*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Rosenfeld, Sam. 2018. *The Polarizers: Postwar Architects of our Partisan Era*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Saldin, Robert P. and Steven M. Teles. 2020. *Never Trump: The Revolt of the Conservative Elites*. New York: Oxford University Press.

4 Efficient use of e-mail

1. Use a subject line that indicates your need. Please don't reply to a blanket email sent through Blackboard, nor to a thread about some other issue.
2. Include the full course number (i.e., PSCI-T380-004).
3. Be as specific as possible, and use complete sentences.
4. Keep all correspondence with respect to the same issue in the same thread. Start a different thread for a different issue.
5. Use your Drexel email so that I can search my inbox for your username.

5 No redistribution of course materials

The following language is provided by Drexel University:

It is important to recognize that some or all of the course materials provided to you may be the intellectual property of Drexel University, the course instructor, or others. Use of this intellectual property is governed by Drexel University policies, including the IT-1 policy found here: <https://drexel.edu/it/about/policies/policies/01-Acceptable-Use>

Briefly, this policy states that course materials, including recordings, provided by the course instructor may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or re-posted. Doing so may be considered a breach of this policy and will be investigated and addressed as possible academic dishonesty, among other potential violations. Improper use of such materials may also constitute a violation of the University's Code of Conduct found here: <https://drexel.edu/cpo/policies/cpo-1> and will be investigated as such.

6 Other policies

You agree to:

1. Treat guest speakers and classmates with respect.
2. Check Drexel email daily through the date of the final exam.
3. Attend class and meet course deadlines. Out-of-class written work loses five points for each 24-hour period past the time and date it is due.
4. Use Internet search or a dictionary to look up words you do not know.
5. Abide by all other Drexel policies, found at the following websites. Note that I reserve the right to use plagiarism-detection software.

- Academic integrity: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity>
- Disability accommodation: <https://drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/students>
- Add/Drop: <http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-add-drop>
- Course withdrawal: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-withdrawal>
- Incomplete grades: https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/incomplete_grades
- Grade appeals: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/grade-appeals>

I agree to:

1. Abide by any grading guidelines in this syllabus and related instructions for assignments. Grading is on the 0-100 scale: 97 and up (A+), 93-96 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-87 (B), 80-82 (B-), and so on, down to 50 (F). Rounding occurs for final grades only, to the nearest whole number. The rounding threshold is 0.5 percentage points.
2. Answer student e-mail within 48 business hours. Business hours are 9 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, non-holiday.
3. Except for any required books, post links to readings on Blackboard, if not the readings themselves.
4. Grade written work within 10 business days of submission.
5. Notify you of changes to this syllabus at least one week in advance of affected due dates.
6. Give office hours on a by-appointment basis. (See link above.) Students who are not in Philadelphia can book these times for phone conversations.

7 Schedule of readings and classes

7.1 The big picture

Monday, September 21: This syllabus, my reading tips, and the guidelines for papers. See links in Section 2 above.

Wednesday, September 23: Croker, Richard. 1892. “Tammany Hall and the Democracy.” *The North American Review* 154 (123): 225-30.

Monday, September 28: Aldrich, John H. 2011. “Political Parties in and Out of Legislatures.” In Robert E. Goodin, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of American Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

7.2 Party-in-government

Wednesday, September 30: Lodge, Henry Cabot. 1891. “Parliamentary Obstruction in the United States.” *The Nineteenth Century: A Monthly Review* 29 (169): 423-8.

Monday, October 5: Lee, Frances E. 2015. “How Party Polarization Affects Governance.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 261-282.

Wednesday, October 7: Hawkesworth, Mary. 2003. “Congressional Enactments of Race-Gender: Toward a Theory of Race-Gendered Institutions.” *American Political Science Review* 97 (4): 529-50.

7.3 Party-as-organization

Monday, October 12: Indigenous People’s Day (no class).

Wednesday, October 14: Bawn, Kathleen, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2012. “A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands, and Nominations in American Politics.” *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (3): 571-97.

Monday, October 19: Katz, Richard S. and Peter Mair. 1995. “Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party.” *Party Politics* 1 (1): 5-28.

7.4 Party-in-elections

Wednesday, October 21: Kalmoe, Nathan. 2020. “Uses and Abuses of Ideology in Political Psychology.” *Political Psychology* 41 (4): 771-793.

Monday, October 26: Smith, Candis Watts, Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, and Jasmine Carrera Smith. 2019. “Linked Fate over Time and Across Generations.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 7 (3): 684-694.

Wednesday, October 28: Grossman, Matt and Dave A. Hopkins. 2015. “Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats: The Asymmetry of American Party Politics.” *Perspectives on Politics* 13 (1): 119-139.

Monday, November 2: Valelly, Richard. 2016. “How Suffrage Politics Made – and Makes – America.” In Richard Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, and Robert C. Lieberman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wednesday, November 4: Discuss Election Day in class.

7.5 Do we need political parties?

Monday, November 9: Essays from Didi Kuo and Sheri Berman (chs. 1-3) in *Political Parties: What Are They Good For?* 2020. Washington, DC: New America Foundation. Online at <https://bit.ly/2EvaPIc>.

Wednesday, November 11: Azari, Julia. 2015. “Parties are not the problem – they’re the solution.” *Vox.com*, September 11. Online at <https://bit.ly/2FGuBRF>.

Monday, November 16: Mudde, Cas and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2017. *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*, chapters 1, 5, and 6. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wednesday, November 18: Gehl, Katherine M. and Michael E. Porter. 2017. *Why Competition in the Politics Industry is Failing America: A Strategy for Reinvigorating our Democracy*. White paper, Harvard Business School.

Monday, November 23: Santucci, Jack. 2020. “Multiparty America?” *The Journal of Politics*, early version.

Wednesday, November 25: Thanksgiving break (no class).

7.6 Discussion of book reviews

Monday, November 30: Start reading your chosen book.

Wednesday, December 2: Continue reading your chosen book.