

**POL 360, Section 01**  
**Political Parties and Interest Groups**  
**Fall 2009: MWF 11:00-11:50, CHSS 242B**

**Dr. Stacy Ulbig**  
**Phone: 294-1468**  
**E-mail: [ulbig@shsu.edu](mailto:ulbig@shsu.edu)**  
**Website: <http://www.shsu.edu/~sgu001/>**

**Office: CHSS489**  
**Office Hours: MWF 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**and by arrangement everyday**

**Course Description:** This course is a survey of the development of the party system from the founding of the republic to the present, together with an examination of party processes, party machines, pressure groups, party finances, the electorate, nominating techniques, political campaigns, and elections. These topics will be explored through lecture, group discussions, and written assignments. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: POL 261.

**Course Objectives:** Specific course objectives include:

- Students will gain factual knowledge and information regarding concepts related to political parties and interest groups in America
- Students will learn fundamental principles and theories in the area of political parties and interest groups
- Students will increase analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills

**Textbooks & Required Materials:**

Berry, Jeffrey M. and Clyde Wilcox. 2007. *The Interest Group Society, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Pearson-Longman.

Hershey, Marjorie R. 2007. *Party Politics in America, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Pearson-Longman.

Additional readings will be handed out in class or posted on the course Blackboard website.

**Exams and Grading:** Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance in class and on 15 take-home/in-class assignments, three exams, and one memo/presentation project, as follows:

Class Participation (Attendance & Engagement)	15 pts
Take-home & In-Class Assignments (15@4 points each)	60 pts
Memo & Presentation Project (Due dates vary, see below)	100 pts
Exam #1 (Monday, October 5 <sup>th</sup> )	100 pts
Exam #2 (Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup> )	100 pts
Final Exam (Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> )	25 pts

*Assignments.* The take-home/in-class assignments are posted on the course Blackboard website or will be handed out in class. You must be present in class to earn credit for these assignments. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 4 points (A=4 points; B=3 points; C=2 points; D=1 point; F=0 points). You are expected to complete 17 of these assignments and turn them in at the beginning of the appropriate class meetings. No late assignments will be accepted. You will receive a grade of zero (0) for each assignment you fail to complete. Your lowest two scores will be dropped from the grade calculation.

*Exams.* Exams are in-class, closed book, closed notes. The exams will require you to answer several short answer questions and/or at least one longer essay question. You are expected to take the exams at the scheduled times. If you must miss an exam for some legitimate reason, you must contact me **before** the date of the exam if at all possible. Requests to take a make-up exam will require some documentation or other evidence attesting to your circumstances. If you fail to contact me within 24 hours of the date of the missed exam, you automatically forfeit the opportunity to take a make-up exam, and your grade for the exam will be recorded as zero (0).

*Memo & Presentation.* You must complete one 2-3 page memo and make one 8-10 minute class presentation related to ONE of the following topics:

---

Topic #1: Interest Group Profile (Friday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> )	Topic #6: Presidential Nominations (Friday, October 30 <sup>th</sup> )
Topic #2: Third Parties in the United States (Friday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> )	Topic #7: Campaign Finance (November 6 <sup>th</sup> )
Topic #3: Party Platforms (Friday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Topic #8: Organized Interests & Healthcare Policy (Monday, November 16 <sup>th</sup> )
Topic #4: Major Parties in the Electorate Today (Friday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> )	Topic #9: Do Interest Groups Buy Votes? (Friday, November 20 <sup>th</sup> )
Topic #5: McGovern-Fraser Reforms (Friday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	Topic #10: Interest Groups in the Courts (Wednesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup> )

---

You have been randomly assigned to one of the above topics, but may trade topics by agreement with one of your colleagues. In class, on the Friday of the first week of classes (Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>), you must let me know if you have arranged to trade memos with a fellow classmate (both parties must be present and agree to the trade). Unless I hear from you and the classmate with whom you are switching, you are to complete the memo/presentation on the topic you were randomly assigned. You **MUST** complete the memo/presentation you select (or are assigned), and may not turn more than the one required memo or make more than one presentation. More detailed information on this assignment is posted on the course Blackboard website and will be available in class.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following scale: A = 360 points or more; B = 320 to 359.999 points; C = 280 to 319.999 points; D = 240 to 279.999 points; F = less than 240 points (students asking me to calculate their grade for them will be penalized 100 points on their overall course grade).

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be given the opportunity to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Because class attendance and course grade are demonstrably and positively related, I expect students to attend all class sessions of this course. Regular attendance is important because we will cover information in class that is not found in the texts. Attendance will be taken in every class meeting. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to become informed on what was covered in class. Please get class notes from a fellow student. It is not my policy to give out my lecture notes.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. *NOTE:* No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf).

**Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf).

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to abide by the Classroom Rules of Conduct as outlined by the Dean of Students: [http://www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007\\_2008.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007_2008.pdf).

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

*Note: This schedule and the reading assignments are tentative. Changes will be announced in class.*

**August 26 (Wednesday): Expectations – Reasonable and Unreasonable**

**August 28 (Friday): Memo/Presentation Swap Meet**

### I. INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZED INTERESTS

**August 31 (Monday): The Role of Interest Groups in Society**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 1

Madison, James. *Federalist No. 10: The Utility of the Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection*. (available on Blackboard)

de Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*. Book 1, Chapter 12. (available on Blackboard)

**September 2 – September 4 (Wednesday – Friday): Interest Group Origin and Maintenance**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 3

Olson, Mancur. 1965. “A Theory of Groups and Organizations” – Chapter 1 in *The Logic of Collective Action*. Harvard University Press. (available on Blackboard)

**September 7 (Monday): No Class Meeting – Labor Day Holiday**

**September 9 (Wednesday): Interest Group Bias?**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 10

Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. “The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System.” Chapter 2 in *The Semisovereign People: A Realist’s View of Democracy in America* New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (available on Blackboard)

Danielian, Lucig H. and Benjamin I. Page. 1994. “The Heavenly Chorus: Interest Group Voices on TV News.” *American Journal of Political Science* 38(4): 1056-1078. (available on Blackboard)

**September 11 (Friday): Growth in Interest Group Activity**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 2

Confessore, Nicholas. 2003. “Welcome to the Machine: How the GOP disciplined K Street and Made Bush Supreme.” *Washington Monthly* July/August 2003. (available on Blackboard)

Birnbaum, Jeffrey H. 2007. “The Other K Street.” *The Washington Post* May 7, 2007: D01. (available on Blackboard).

**September 14 (Monday): Definition and Origin of Political Parties**

Hershey, Chapter 1

Maisel, L. Sandy. 1999. “The Development of the American Parties.” In *Parties and Elections in America: The Electoral Process*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (available on Blackboard)

**September 16 (Wednesday): America's Two-Party System**

Hershey, Chapter 2

Lawson, Kay. 2002. "The Case for a Multiparty System." In *Multiparty Politics in America: People, Passions, and Power. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul and John C. Green, eds. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Pp. 31-44. (available on Blackboard)

Bibby, John F. 2002. "In Defense of the Two-Party System." In *Multiparty Politics in America: People, Passions, and Power. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul and John C. Green, eds. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Pp. 45-58. (available on Blackboard)

**September 18 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #1: Interest Group Profile**

**September 21 (Monday): Video – "A Third Choice"**

No readings

**September 23 (Wednesday): Party Organizations**

Hershey, Chapters 3 & 4

Coleman, John J. 1996. "Resurgent or Just Busy? Party Organizations in Contemporary America." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties*, 2nd ed., eds. John C. Green and Daniel M. Shea, pp. 367-84. (available on Blackboard)

Paul S. Herrnson. 1998. "National Party Organizations at the Century's End." In *The Parties Respond: Changes in American Parties and Campaigns*, ed. L. Sandy Maisel. Boulder, CO: Westview, Chapter 3, pp. 52-54. (available on Blackboard)

**September 25 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #2: Third Parties in the U.S.**

**September 28 (Monday): Party Activists**

Hershey, Chapter 5

Keeter, Scott, Cary Funk, and Courtney Kennedy. 2007. "Deaniacs and Democrats: Howard Dean's Campaign Activists." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Green, John C. and Daniel J. Coffey, eds. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Pp. 151-169. (available on Blackboard)

**September 30 (Wednesday): Responsible Parties?**

Hershey, Chapter 15

Coleman, John. 2003. "Responsible, Functional, or Both? American Political Parties and the APSA Report after Fifty Years." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties*, 4th ed., eds. John C. Green and Rick Farmer Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

**October 2 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #3: Party Platforms**

---

**October 5 (Monday): EXAM #1**

---

**October 7 (Wednesday): Exam #1 Debriefing**

## **II. GETTING ELECTED: ORGANIZED INTERESTS IN ELECTIONS**

### **October 9 (Friday): Party in the Electorate - Development & Persistence of Party Identification**

Hershey, Chapter 6

Kimball, David C. and Cassie A. Gross. 2007. "The Growing Polarization of American Voters." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Green, John C. and Daniel J. Coffey, eds. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Pp. 265-278. (available on Blackboard)

### **October 12 (Monday): Party in the Electorate – Realignment & Dealignment**

Hershey, Chapter 7

Reiter, Howard L. 2007. "Party Factions in 2004." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties*. Pp. 35-50. (available on Blackboard)

### **October 14 (Wednesday): Party in the Electorate – Voter Turnout**

Hershey, Chapter 8

Lijphart, Arend. 1997. "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma." *American Political Science Review* 91(1): 1-14. (available on Blackboard)

Highton, Benhamin and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 2001. "The Political Implications of Higher Turnout." *British Journal of Political Science* 31(1): 179-192. (available on Blackboard)

### **October 16 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #4: Major Parties in the Electorate Today**

### **October 19 (Monday): Choosing Candidates**

Hershey, Chapter 9

Kaufmann, Karen M., James G. Gimpel, and Adam H. Hoffman. 2003. "A Promise Fulfilled? Open Primaries and Representation." *Journal of Politics* 65(2): 457-476 (skim 463-465).

### **October 21 (Wednesday): Video – "Chicago, 1968"**

No readings

### **October 23 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #5: McGovern-Fraser Reforms**

### **October 26 (Monday): Presidential Nominations, Part I**

Hershey, Chapter 10

Rauch, Jonathan. 2007. "Campaign Seasoning." *The Atlantic*. July/August. (available on Blackboard)

"Prime Time for Primaries." 2007. *The Week*. August 3, 2007, (available on Blackboard)

### **October 28 (Wednesday): Presidential Nominations, Part II**

Donovan, Todd and Rob Hunsaker. 2009. "Beyond Expectations: Effects of Early Elections in U.S. Presidential Nomination Contests." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42(1): 45-52. (available on Blackboard)

Haynes, Audrey A. and Brian Pitts. 2009. "Making an Impressions: New Media in the 2008 Presidential Nomination Campaigns." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42(1): 53-58. (available on Blackboard)

### **Friday, October 30 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #6: Presidential Nominations, 2008**

### **November 2 (Monday): Interest Groups in Campaigns**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 5

Herrnson, Paul S. 2005. "Interest Groups and Campaigns: The Electoral Connection." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 25-48 (focus on 29-30, 36-37, 43-45).

### **November 4 (Wednesday): Campaign Finance**

Hershey, Chapter 12

Semiatin, Richard J. and Mark J. Rozell. 2005. "Interest Groups in Congressional Elections." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 75-88.

Dwyre, Diana. 2007. "527s: The New Bad Guys of Campaign Finance." In *Interest Group Politics, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Cigler, Allan J. and Burdett A. Loomis, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 212-232.

Koger, Gregory and Jennifer Nicoll Victor. 2009. "Polarized Agents: Campaign Contributions by Lobbyists." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42 (3): 485-488.

### **November 6 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #7: Campaign Finance**

## **III. MAKING POLICY: ORGANIZED INTERESTS IN GOVERNMENT**

### **November 9 (Monday): Organized Interests in the Legislative Branch**

Hershey, Chapter 13

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 6, pp. 103-107 & Ch. 8, pp. 131-141; 152-154

Wilcox, Clyde and Dong-Young Kim. 2005. "Continuity and Change in the Congressional Connection." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 129-136.

### **November 11 (Wednesday): Grassroots Lobbying**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 7

Wilcox, Clyde and Dong-Young Kim. 2005. "Continuity and Change in the Congressional Connection." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 136-139.

Carpenter, Amanda B. 2006. "Pelosi Targets Grassroots Freedom of Speech." *Human Events* 62(43): 1-6. (available on Blackboard)

### **November 13 (Friday): Video – "The Great Health Care Debate"**

Berry & Wilcox, Chapter 9

### **November 16 (Monday): Group Presentation – Topic #8: Organized Interests & Health Care Policy**

**November 18 (Wednesday): Organized Interests in the Executive Branch**

Hershey, Chapter 14, pp. 265-272

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 8, pp. 137-146

Skinner, Richard M. 2007. "The Partisan Presidency." In *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Green, John C. and Daniel J. Coffey, eds. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Pp. 331-241. (available on Blackboard)

Furlong, Scott R. 2005. "Exploring Interest Group Participation in Executive Policymaking." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 282-297.

**November 20 (Friday): Group Presentation – Topic #9: Do Interest Groups Buy Votes?**

**November 23 (Monday): Study Day**

**November 25 – 27 (Wednesday – Friday): NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**November 30 (Monday): Organized Interests in the Judicial Branch**

Hershey, Chapter 14, pp. 272-278

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 8, pp. 146-152

O'Connor, Karen. 2005. "Lobbying the Justices or Lobbying for Justice? The Role of Organized Interests in the Judicial Process." In *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying, and Policymaking in Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Herrnson, Paul S., Ronald G. Shaiko, and Clyde Wilcox, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 319-340.

**December 2 (Wednesday): Group Presentation – Topic #10: Organized Interests in the Courts**

**December 4 (Friday): Review for Exam #2**

---

---

**December 7 (Monday): Exam #2**

---

---

**December 9 (Wednesday): Exam #2 Debrief & Review for Final Exam**

**December 11 (Friday): Study Day – No Class Meeting**

---

---

**December 16 (Wednesday): FINAL EXAM – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

---

---