COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to gain a better understanding of the role parties play in American politics today by investigating and discussing the ideas that have shaped and animated American political parties since the early years of the Republic. The course will focus, first of all, on the place of parties in constitutional government; then we will examine the major periods of realignment within and across the parties, including the election of 1800, the second party system (1830s-1850s), the sectional split among Democrats and the rise of the Republican party (1854-1860), Progressive reforms (after 1880), the New Deal Democratic realignment (1930s), and the Great Society and Republican reaction after 1960. When we examine these periods of realignment, emphasis will be on issues and ideas. At the same time, we will discuss contemporary issues that both influence and are influenced by the parties today.

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:

Students are encouraged to meet with me outside of class to discuss any aspect of the materials or topics we cover in the course.

Office: Andrews 213
Office Phone: (419) 289-5686
Email: cburket1@ashland.edu
Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:50-12:05 and by appointment

STUDENT RESOURCES:

Students are encouraged to visit my personal website at www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/. Occasionally I will post course materials online, and there are also other valuable links and resources for students posted at this website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading quizzes (roughly 25% of the final grade)
   Reading quizzes over assigned materials may be given on occasion without prior notice.

2. Midterm exam (roughly 25% of the final grade):
   The exam will consist of a short answer section and an essay section. In writing your exam essays, you should demonstrate that you have a good grasp of the topics we have covered in class or that are contained in the assigned readings. The exam essay should cover general themes to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, but you should also include many specific examples from the readings to back up your claims. You should demonstrate that you have been participating intellectually in and out of class and thinking seriously about the topics we have discussed.
3. Class preparation and presentation (roughly 25% of the final grade):
This portion of the grade includes class preparation, quality participation, memory of assigned
readings, attendance, and in-class reports. The preparation portion of the grade may also be
influenced by the reading quiz grades. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THE
READINGS BEFORE CLASS. Discussion is highly encouraged in this course. I will call on
students from time to time to explain the main points in the assigned readings. I will also address
questions to the class generally, to which students should volunteer answers. This part of the
grade will be affected by excessive absences as well as by failure to speak up from time to time
with correct answers, whether called on or not. The best way to prepare for class is to read the
assignments and make a brief outline of the main points. Then memorize your outline.

On select Thursdays, different students will be assigned to make a presentation to the class
on some aspect of the assigned readings. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in
length. After the presentation, other students in the class will have the opportunity to ask
questions of the presenters. Presentations account for approximately half of the Class
Preparation grade.

4. Paper (roughly 25% of the final grade):
Students will write a paper (approximately 9-12 pages) on a topic selected from a list provided
by the professor. The paper must be typed and double spaced, stapled (no binders), Times New
Roman 12-point font, with footnotes or endnotes for every citation. Footnotes should be in the
Chicago format as indicated in Kate L. Turabian’s Manual for Writers. Be sure to include a
cover page with the title of your paper, your name, and the course number and title.

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have grasped the importance and
complexity of the question or topic. You should be as concise and specific as possible in your
essays, presenting a reasoned argument in support of or against a particular aspect of American
political thought. Every paper should begin with a paragraph laying out your thesis, and in the
body of the paper you should present evidence that supports your thesis. This is not an
opportunity for you to simply give your own opinions on matters (no “I feel” this or “I think”
that); rather, you should make observations and reasoned arguments and support them with
evidence from the readings assigned for the course. You may also use outside sources, but the
emphasis should be placed on the primary source documents assigned for class. Wikipedia is
NOT a scholarly source, and you should avoid using this in your paper. PAPERS MUST BE
SUBMITTED IN HARD-COPY FORM – NO EMAILED PAPERS WILL BE
ACCEPTED.

GENERAL POLICIES:
PLAGIARISM: Any willful plagiarism on papers or cheating on exams will result in an “F” for
the course. You should read the Academic Integrity Policy in the student handbook or catalog.
Also see the link on plagiarism at my website, www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/.
ATTENDANCE: You should make every effort to attend every class. Even if you have what
you think is a good reason for missing a class, the professor retains the discretion to decide
whether to count it as an excused or unexcused absence. More than 2 absences will result in an
automatic 5% deduction per day from the participation portion of your final grade.

Contents of this syllabus are subject to change.
REQUIRED TEXTS:


RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations, sixth ed. (University of Chicago, 1996, ISBN 0226816273)

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS:

- Other assigned readings will be included in a readings packet, which will be handed out the first day of class. Occasionally readings will be available online at my personal website (www.ashland.edu/~cburket1/). It is the student’s responsibility to check the website for available readings on a regular basis. Students should print readings that are available online and bring them to class on the appropriate days

READING PLAN:

WEEK 1 (8/29, 8/31) Political Parties and the Constitution – Part I
- Party dominance chart
- Declaration of Independence, 1776
- Brutus II, 1787
- United States Constitution and Amendments
- The Federalist Nos. 9, 10, 51
- Washington, Farewell Address, 1796
- Harvey Mansfield, “Political Parties and American Constitutionalism” (recommended)

WEEK 2 (9/5, 9/7) Federalists and Republicans
- Melancton Smith, “The Federal Farmer” II, 1787
- The Federalist No. 37 and No. 38
- Thomas Jefferson, Opinion on the National Bank, 15 February 1791
- Alexander Hamilton, Opinion on the National Bank, 23 February 1791
- James Madison, “Parties,” 23 January 1792
- Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, 23 May 1792
- Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington, 26 May 1792
- Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, 5 May 1793
- Pacificus-Helvidius Letters, 1793
- Thomas Jefferson to Phillip Mazzei, 24 April 1796
- Michael Allen Gillespie, “Political Parties and the American Founding” (recommended)

WEEK 3 (9/12, 9/14) Jeffersonian Republicans; the second party system – Democrats and Whigs
- Fisher Ames, “Falkland,” No. 2, 6 February 1801
- Thomas Jefferson, 1st Inaugural Address, 4 March 1801
- Madison’s Veto of the Federal Public Works Bill, 3 March 1817
- James Monroe, First Inaugural Address, 4 March 1817
- McCulloch v Maryland, 1819
- John Quincy Adams, Inaugural Address, 4 March 1825
- Martin Van Buren to Thomas Ritchie, 13 January 1827
- Andrew Jackson, “Veto of the Maysville Road Bill,” 27 May 1830
- Andrew Jackson, “Veto of the Bank Bill,” 10 July 1832
- Henry Clay, Speech on Jackson’s Veto of the Bank Bill, 10 July 1832
- Summary of Presidential vetoes
- Abraham Lincoln, Speech on the Sub-Treasury, 26 December 1839
- Abraham Lincoln, Speech on Internal Improvements, 20 June 1848
- Democratic Party Platform 1848
- Whig Party Platform 1848
- Milkis, Political Parties and Constitutional Government, pp. 13-34

PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED
WEEK 4 (9/19, 9/21) Party realignment: Federalism and Slavery

Webster-Hayne Debates, 19 January - 26 January 1830
John C. Calhoun, “Fort Hill Address,” 26 July 1831
Andrew Jackson, Proclamation Regarding Nullification, 10 December 1832
Andrew Jackson, Second Inaugural Address, 4 March 1833
John C. Calhoun, “Speech on the Reception of Abolition Petitions,” 6 February 1837
Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Peoria, Illinois, 16 October 1854
Democratic Platform of 1856
Republican Platform of 1856
Roger Taney, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 6 March 1857
Abraham Lincoln, Speech at Springfield, 26 June 1857
William Lloyd Garrison, “Dred Scott and Disunion,” 12 March 1858
Glen Thurow, “Lincoln and the Republican Realignment”
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 34-41

WEEK 5 (9/26, 9/28) Lincoln-Douglas showdown

Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1-3

WEEK 6 (10/3, 10/5) Lincoln-Douglas showdown, continued; post-Civil War Republican dominance

Lincoln-Douglas Debates 4-7
Abraham Lincoln, Address at Cooper Institute, 27 February 1860
1860 Democratic Party Platform (Douglas)
1860 Democratic Party Platform (Breckinridge)
1860 Republican Party Platform
James Buchanan, State of the Union Address, 3 December 1860
1860 Electoral Map

WEEK 7 (10/10, 10/12) Progressive reforms

Theodore Roosevelt, “The Right of the People to Rule,” 20 March 1912
Theodore Roosevelt, “Limitation of Governmental Power,” 14 September 1912
Woodrow Wilson, *The New Freedom*, 1913
Republican Party Platform of 1912
Democratic Party Platform of 1912
Progressive Party Platform of 1912
Woodrow Wilson, “Wanted – A Party,” 1886
Herbert Croly, *Progressive Democracy*, chapter XVI, 1914
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 42-71
WEEK 8 (10/19) New Deal Democratic realignment

Warren Harding, “Normalcy Speech,” 14 May 1920  
Herbert Hoover, “Rugged Individualism Speech,” 22 October 1928  
Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Commonwealth Club Address,” 23 September 1932  
1932 Republican Party Platform  
1932 Democratic Party Platform  
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Annual Message to Congress, 11 January 1944  
1944 Republican Party Platform  
1944 Democratic Party Platform  
Donald R. Brand, “Political Parties and the New Deal” (recommended)  
Charles Kesler, “Political Parties, the Constitution, and the Future of American Politics” (recommended)  
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 72-102

WEEK 9 (10/24, 10/26) The Great Society and Republican Reaction

Lyndon Johnson, “Great Society Speech,” 22 May 1964  
Lyndon Johnson, “War on Poverty” Speech, 16 March 1964  
1964 Republican Party Platform  
1964 Democratic Party Platform  
Lyndon Johnson, State of the Union Address, 4 January 1965  
Barry Goldwater, Acceptance Speech, 17 July 1964  
Jimmy Carter, “Crisis of Confidence” Speech, 15 July 1979  
Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address, 20 January 1980  
1980 Republican Party Platform  
1980 Democratic Party Platform  
Republican Party, “Contract with America,” 1994  
Milkis, *Political Parties and Constitutional Government*, pp. 103-116

WEEK 10 (10/31, 11/2) Midterm elections review

Andrew Busch, Editorials on Midterm Elections

WEEK 11 (11/7, 11/9) Midterm elections review

Andrew Busch, Editorials on Midterm Elections

**MIDTERM EXAM DUE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9**
WEEK 12 (11/14, 11/16) Congress, agencies and the parties

_The Federalist_ (excerpts on Representation, Separation of Powers, and Checks and Balances)
Woodrow Wilson, _Congressional Government_, 1885
Woodrow Wilson, “The Study of Administration”
Woodrow Wilson, _Constitutional Government in the United States_, 1908
Herbert Croly, _Progressive Democracy_, chapter XVII, 1914
William F. Connelly, Jr., “The Party Government School of Thought in Action” (recommended)
Milkis, _Political Parties and Constitutional Government_, pp. 121-136

WEEK 13 (11/21) The President and the parties

_The Federalist_ No. 58 (excerpt on demagoguery)
Wilson, “Leaders of Men,” 1889
Woodrow Wilson, _Constitutional Government in the United States_, Chap. III, “The President of the United States,” 1908 (on the role of the President)
James Ceaser, “Political Parties and Presidential Ambition,” 1978 (recommended)

NO CLASS THURSDAY, 11/23 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14 (11/28, 11/30) Campaign Finance Reform and the Parties


WEEK 15 (12/5, 12/7) The future of political parties

Ceaser and Busch, _Red Over Blue_, chapter 6, “Electoral Reform and the Future of the Parties”
Milkis, _Political Parties and Constitutional Government_, pp. 174-186

LAST DAY OF CLASS THURSDAY, 12/7

PAPER DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 BY 5:00 P.M.