

Syllabus
POLS 3110 Political Parties



College of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science
Dr. Chapman Rackaway, Chair and Professor

1. COURSE INFORMATION

- 1.1. Credit Hours **3**
- 1.2. Semester and Year **Fall 2019**
- 1.3. Course Prerequisites **POLS 1101 or PSC 101**
- 1.4. Location of Class **Pafford 206**
- 1.5. Class Time **TTh 11:00 am to 12:15 pm**

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Contact Information

- Dr. Chapman Rackaway
- Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science
- Pafford 140
- Office Hours; also by appointment
- crackawa@westga.edu
- Phone Number 678-839-6504
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chapman-rackaway-a35249/>
- Twitter: [@DocPolitics](https://twitter.com/DocPolitics)
- Portfolio: <https://www.chapmanrackaway.com>

Contact Procedure and Policy

I am available in my office during office hours, however, I will arrange availability by appointment as well. I respond to all e-mails within 24 business hours.

About the Instructor

- Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Missouri 2002
- Research interests: Political party organizations, election process, state politics, social media in campaigns

3. TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks

- Marjorie Randon Hershey (2017) *Party Politics In America*. Routledge Press. ISBN: 9781138683686
- John Green, Daniel Coffey, and David Cohen (2018) *The State of the Parties 2018*. Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN: 978-1-5381-1766-8
- Chapman Rackaway and Laurie Rice (2017) *American Political Parties Under Pressure*. Palgrave MacMillan. ISBN: 978-3-319-60878-5

4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description

This class will investigate the history and development of American political parties. Students will learn about why parties form, how they are organized, and the roles parties play. Changes in party identification and their relation to voting are central to the class. Students will also explore how parties act as electioneering organizations and governing bodies at both the national and state levels.

Instructor Course Description

We will spend this class examining the most important linkage institution any republican democracy can have: the political party. We will investigate the history and trace the development of parties in America, with particular attention to reforms placed upon the parties that changed their role. We will examine how parties affect governing, attitudes, and all of a democratic society.

Recommendations for Success

Use the syllabus and course calendar to plan out deadline compliance and set yourself on a regular schedule. The students who succeed are those who regularly participate in class activities rather than rushing to complete all assignments prior to the deadlines. Get to know your instructor and fellow students. Understand that when we debate political issues we will disagree. We should disagree, but be sure to do so respectfully.

5. COURSE OBJECTIVES (ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL/COLLEGE/PROGRAM STANDARDS)

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the theories of party creation and roles in American politics.
- Understand the role of parties in the American system.
- Comprehend the history of American parties and their development through periodic realignments.
- Analyze the impact of parties in American government.
- Understand the structural problems of parties and the relationship of national to state and local parties.
- Evaluate the systemic weakness and possible reforms of American parties.

- Comprehend the relationship between the party system and the society as a whole.

6. TEACHING, LEARNING METHODS, & COURSE STRUCTURE

Delivery Method

The course will be entirely delivered in person. The course will be a combination of instructor-led and group-led discussion. It is imperative that every student complete their readings prior to each class meeting.

Instructional Approach

I believe as an instructor I am a guide to facilitate your learning as a student. I do not lecture in classes – instead, I will begin with questions. Your readings will help inform the conversation we have in class.

Course Structure

There are eight modules for this course’s materials. I have divided them into a logical progression to cover the development of modern parties and then to dissect and analyze their component parts.

7. COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and might change during the semester depending on how the course evolves. The content is subject to change depending on students’ interest and progress. Students will be notified of the changes through announcements either in the class or at the CourseDen course site. If time is mentioned in the course, it refers to the Eastern Time Zone.

Module # & Range of Dates for Module	Topics	Reading	Assignments/ Quizzes	Due Date
August 15	Overview and Introduction	Syllabus		
Module 1 (Aug 20-22)	Emergence and Foundations of Parties			
Module 2 (Aug 24- Sept 5)	History and Development of Parties		EXAM ONE	Sept 5
Module 3 (Sept 10 - 24)	Party Organizations			
Module 4 (Sept 26-Oct 15)	Party in the Electorate		EXAM TWO	Oct 15
Module 5	Party in Government			

(Oct 17-29)				
Module 6 (Oct 31-Nov 12)	Party Campaigning		EXAM THREE	Nov 12
Module 7 (Nov 14-28)	Minor Parties		Peer Review	Nov 19
Module 8 (Dec 3-5)	The Future of Parties		Final Paper Draft	Dec 5
Dec 10			FINAL EXAM	Dec 10

8. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING SCALE

- 1) **Quizzes.** Between every class day except exams, you will take an open-book, open-note quiz in CourseDen on the readings assigned to you for the NEXT class meeting. The quizzes will help you focus your reading and notetaking to be prepared for in-class discussions. The quizzes will have a variable number of questions and formats, but be worth five points each.

- 2) **Exams.** I will give you four short answer / essay exams during the course of the semester on each section of the course. The exams are non-comprehensive and worth 100 points each. Dates are listed in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus.

- 3) **Course Paper.** Students will prepare a brief paper. Each student should develop an idea to study and write the assignment as the foundation for a full work of original research. Please use me as a resource for sounding out ideas and way to set up your research design. Once you develop an idea, you must be sure that nobody else has done the research you envision, and then use existing political science research as a backbone for your design. Scientific research is based on building off existing work to make a coherent body of knowledge. After you develop the idea and support your points with the literature, you must tell me what kind of data you will use and how you intend to analyze that data. Finally, you must present analysis of the data and draw conclusions. The paper should be *at least six pages*. This paper will be worth one hundred points. Students will be expected to submit a **rough draft to a classmate for peer review on November 14**. The reviewer will return the draft with comments by November 28. **The final draft of the paper is due December 5.**

Note: I reserve the right to add other assignments or remove existing ones as I see fit.

WEIGHTING SCALE:

Quizzes (25x5pts)	125 points
Exam One	100 points
Exam Two	100 points
Exam Three	100 points
Exam Four	100 points
Rough Draft	25 points
Peer Review	25 points

Course Paper
Total

100 points
675 points

GRADING SCALE

608 – 675 = A	(90 –100%)
543 – 607 = B	(80 – 89%)
475 – 542 = C	(70 – 79%)
407 – 474 = D	(60 – 69%)
406 and below = U	(59% or less)

9. COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance

The student is responsible for attending all classes on time, beginning with the first day of classes. If the student's participation in organized university activities should require missing a class or classes, it is the student's responsibility to notify instructors in advance and arrange to make up missed work. Make-ups will only be allowed for absences with advance notification. If the student misses classes due to illness, the student should seek treatment at the Student Health Center in order to facilitate early return to class. If the student is hospitalized, ill at their parental home, or has extenuating circumstances, the student should report this to the Student Health Center. A death in the immediate family should be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. It is the student's responsibility to see instructors and arrange to make up all missed work.

In advance of any off-campus, officially approved group activity (athletics, music, conferences, etc.), the group's sponsor must place on file a list of participating students in the office of each dean (arts and sciences, business and leadership, education, and health and life sciences). Lists should be alphabetized for easy reference. In special individual cases or situations, certain offices (Student Health, Registrar, Student Affairs, etc.) may inform instructors of extenuating circumstances, but these are not excuses. The student is still held responsible for the work missed during the absence.

Class Participation

Students must conduct themselves so other students are not distracted from the pursuit of learning. Discourteous or unseemly behavior will not be tolerated. Faculty members, staff and other students are to be treated with courtesy and respect. If unacceptable behavior occurs, the student may be asked to leave the classroom and may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including being dropped from the class with a grade of "U." Since this is a discussion-based class and we will discuss some sensitive topics, your courtesy and respectful disagreement with others is absolutely necessary. I will tolerate no personal attacks during discussion whatsoever.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment due dates are set prior to the semester, listed in this syllabus, and in the course calendar.

Procedures for Assignment Submission

All materials will be submitted via CourseDen unless I note otherwise. I DO NOT accept attachments via e-mail for grades. No document submitted to me via e-mail will be graded.

Test Make-ups

I do not provide make-ups except for a) previously excused university-sponsored events, and b) illnesses for which you have notified Student Affairs ahead of time. Unless one of those two criteria have been satisfied, I provide no allowance for late submissions of quizzes, discussion posts, or assignments.

Bonus Points

I do not provide extra credit / bonus point opportunities.

10. COURSE POLICIES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

HONOR CODE At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing. The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG. Additionally, the student is

responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook.

UWG EMAIL POLICY University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

Information regarding new policy on "Campus Carry" (HB 280):
<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>