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Office: Social Sciences Building 449  
Spring Quarter 2009  
Office Hours: 2:45-3:45 MW  
Course Time: 4:00-4:50 MWF  
Location: Ledden Auditorium  
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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.

**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.

**Midterm and Final Examinations:** The topic and due dates for the midterm and the final examination will be discussed in lecture. Both examinations will be 5-7 pages length.

**Game Reports:** Students will choose one game on which to write a game report. You will be asked to write a 4-5 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 the game 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 a week after the game is played in class.

**Late Assignments:** Barring documented emergencies, **no late assignments will be accepted.** Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will **not** be accepted. While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures.

**Reading Schedule:** Students should attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the course readings. As this is an upper division course, the reading load for the quarter is quite extensive. Course assignments will require students to show familiarity and understanding of course readings. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: <http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf>.

**Books:**

**Required:**

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

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

Ware, Alan. *Political Parties and Party Systems*

Reserve Readings

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

**Note:** For Ware readings, please read section A and skim country notes in section B based on interest. If you have specific interests in any particular system, please let me know.

**Week 1: Introduction: What are Political Parties?**

**Ware:** pgs. 1-6

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** pgs. 3-10

**Evolution and Development of Parties**

**Mair:** Readings 1-3 and 5-6

**Please Note: There will be no class on 3 April 2009.**

**Week 2: Evolution and Development of Parties**

**Game:** Primitive Politics

**Parties and Membership**

**Ware:** CH 2

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 5

**Week 3: Party Organization**

**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 6

**Mair and Katz:** pgs. 93-119\*

**Week 4: What do Parties Want?**

**Mueller and Strom:** pgs. 1-13\*

**Parties and Votes**

**Ware:** CH 11

**Game:** Elections

**Week 5: What do Parties Want? Policy vs. Office**

**Ware:** CH 1

**Laver and Schofield:** pgs. 89-119\*

**Game:** Coalections  
**Midterm:** Distributed

**Week 6: What do Parties Want? Policy vs. Office**  
**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 9

**Case Study: Balancing Policy, Office, and Votes**  
**Mueller:** pgs. 36-62\*

**Game:** Coalections with Portfolios

**Week 7: Party Systems: Defined**  
**Ware:** pgs. 5-13 and CH 5

**Party Systems: Competition Models**  
**Mair:** Reading 24

**Midterm: Due**

**Week 8: Party Systems: Sociological and Institutional Models**  
**Ware:** CH 6  
**Mair:** Readings 9 and 20

**Week 9: Party Systems: Stability and Change**  
**Ware:** CH 7

**Party Systems: Volatility and Change**  
**Mair:** Readings 12-15

**Week 10: Party Systems: Values and Change**  
**Mair:** Readings 16 and 17  
**Dalton and Wattenberg:** CH 2-3

**Final:** Distributed

**Final Examination due: 3:00-5:59 on 11 June 2009**

***Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made be in lecture.*