

Winthrop University, Fall 2018
Political Science 307-001: American Parties and Practical Politics
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 PM, Owens 104
Three credit hours
Turnitin.com class ID 18772932, enrollment key holder307

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Office Hours: MW 12:15-1:30, TR 2:00-3:15 or by appointment.

Required texts, available for purchase or rental through the Winthrop University Bookstore, or online:

John Kenneth White and Matthew R. Kerbel, *Party On! Political Parties from Hamilton and Jefferson to Trump*, Routledge, 2018.

Jan E. Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality, and Turnout in the United States*, Princeton University Press, 2014.

David A. Hopkins, *Red Fighting Blue [/] How Geography and Electoral Rules Polarize American Politics*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Alan I. Abramowitz, *The Great Alignment [/] Race, Party Transformation, and the Rise of Donald Trump*, Yale University Press, 2018.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS: Political parties are not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, but they have formed the building blocks of American elections and electoral coalitions virtually since the beginning of the Republic. The class will study the origins of parties, and the roles which they play in our electoral system and our government. We will examine citizen participation in elections, and the factors which make it harder or easier, more or less likely, that someone will vote. We will examine the long-term implications of the 2016 presidential election for the future of American parties and party politics. Finally, taking advantage of South Carolina's state elections which will occur during the semester, the "practical politics" part of the course will give you the opportunity to learn about the electoral system first-hand by participating in a local political activity or in administering the election itself.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The course objective is to increase your knowledge of American political parties and elections from both an academic perspective and a "hands-on" experience. This class contributes to student **mastery of Winthrop University Level Competency 3:** Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live; and **University Level Competency 4:** Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

GRADING SCALE: The course will use Winthrop University's +/- grading system. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100 = A

90-92 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

59 or below = F.

STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three short writing assignments, 15% each. Each writing assignment will involve a question related to one of the first three texts used in class. These will be given out in class one week in advance and are due to turnitin.com by the *beginning* of class on Sept. 13, Oct. 4 and Oct. 30.

Political experience component (see below) and paper, 25%. At the conclusion of the semester, I will ask you to write a reflection relating your political experience in the class to the academic materials we will have covered. What did you do in your political experience? What did you learn? Does your experience reinforce (or not) the arguments made by the authors of our texts? Based on your experience, would you make any recommendations to "improve" the functions of parties and elections? The paper is due to turnitin.com by the *beginning* of class on Thursday, Nov. 29.

Final exam activity, 30%, Thursday, Dec. 6, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM.

Administrative Announcements:

Class cancellations, changes in schedule, guest speakers, etc., will be announced via the class listserv, to which you will be automatically subscribed through your winthrop.edu e-mail address if you are registered for the class by the time the listserv population is generated. If you register later and need to subscribe to the class listserv, go to:

http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081&ekmense1=bfef63b6_489_491_7081_1. The class number is PLSC307001. Check your WU e-mail frequently. You may use the listserv for discussion or to share information with classmates, review for exams, or ask questions about course material. *Note that anything you post to the listserv will be seen by everyone in the class.*

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken by means of a sign-in sheet circulated at the *beginning* of each class meeting. In accordance with Winthrop's attendance policies, if you are absent without excuse from one-quarter of the class meetings or more (in this case, seven of 28), you will receive an N or an F, as appropriate. In this class, signing in an absent classmate is considered an act of academic dishonesty. I do not require documentation for absences *except* for exams and late papers.

Technology:

You are welcome to use a computer to take notes in class. However, this class follows the College of Arts and Sciences policy on use of technology in the classroom. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic communication devices during class meetings. If you need to leave your phone on during a particular class for emergency reasons, please let me know in advance. *The use of any kind of electronic device, including a phone, iPod or Internet access, during an exam constitutes academic dishonesty.*

<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/AppropriateUseOfHandHeldWirelessTechnologyApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the class. This class follows the policies of Winthrop University and the Department of Political Science, which are linked below, on academic misconduct and plagiarism. Please be aware of these policies and abide by them. In addition to the failing grade imposed by the instructor, academic misconduct of any kind will result in referral to the Dean of Students for possible additional sanctions.

Political Science Department policy statement:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/politicalscience/default.aspx?id=19401>

Office of Academic Affairs policy statement:

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/public/policy/fullpolicy.aspx?pid=252>

Schedule of Assignments (subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Tues., Aug. 21	Introduction to the Course
Thurs., Aug. 23	White and Kerbel, Introduction and Chapter One
Tues., Aug. 28	White and Kerbel, Chapters Two and Three
Thurs., Aug. 30	White and Kerbel, Chapter Four
Tues., Sept. 4	White and Kerbel, Chapters Five and Six
Thurs., Sept. 6	White and Kerbel, Chapter Seven
Tues., Sept. 11	White and Kerbel, Chapter Eight
Thurs., Sept. 13	White and Kerbel, Chapter Nine and Conclusion; first writing assignment due.
Tues., Sept. 18	Leighley and Nagler, Part One
Thurs., Sept. 20	Leighley and Nagler, Part Two
Tues., Sept. 25	Leighley and Nagler, Part Three
Thurs., Sept. 27	Leighley and Nagler, Part Four
Tues., Oct. 2	Leighley and Nagler, Part Five
Thurs., Oct. 4	Leighley and Nagler, Parts Six and Seven; second writing assignment due.
Tues., Oct. 9	Hopkins, Chapter 1
Thurs., Oct. 11	Hopkins, Chapter 2
Tues., Oct. 16	Hopkins, Chapter 3
Thurs., Oct. 18	Hopkins, Chapter 4
Tues., Oct. 23	Hopkins, Chapter 5

Thurs., Oct. 25	Hopkins, Chapter 6
Tues., Oct. 30	Hopkins, Chapter 7; third writing assignment due.
Thurs., Nov. 1	Abramowitz, Chapters One and Two
Tues., Nov. 6	NO CLASS - ELECTION DAY. VOTE AND WORK.
Thurs., Nov. 8	Abramowitz, Chapter Three
Tues., Nov. 13	Abramowitz, Chapter Four
Thurs., Nov. 15	Abramowitz, Chapter Five
Tues., Nov. 20	Abramowitz, Chapter Six
Thurs., Nov. 22	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK.
Tues., Nov. 27	Abramowitz, Chapter Seven
Thurs., Nov. 29	LAST CLASS. Experience papers due. Class evaluations will be administered.
Thurs., Dec. 6	FINAL EXAM ACTIVITY, 11:30-2:00.

DETAILS FOR POLITICAL EXPERIENCE COMPONENT:

I expect you to be registered to vote unless you have a legitimate reason for not doing so (not a U.S. citizen, underage, religious objections, etc.) The deadlines for registering to vote in South Carolina for this fall's election are 5:00 PM on Friday, October 5, for in-person registration; 11:59 on Sunday, October 7, for online registration; Tuesday, October 9, for a mail-in registration to be postmarked. If you need information for other states, we can find it.

I will ask you to provide documentation from your supervisor that you have completed the requisite number of hours of work.

Option 1, Campaign Work: Perform 20 hours of work for a local party, candidate, or campaign. South Carolina has seven statewide races (including for Governor) and seven Congressional races on this year's ballot. York County has multiple contests for state House of Representatives, and for School Board. There is a competitive Congressional race in the Charlotte area. I will provide the class with a list of available opportunities in the area, and I will be happy to help you find another option if desired.

Option 2, Poll Management: Poll managers are those responsible for the actual conduct of the election – checking voters in, preparing voting machines for each person's use, etc. In South Carolina, this requires approximately six hours of training and approximately 14 hours of work on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. Winthrop does not have classes that day. The polls are open from 7 AM to 7 PM and you will have to be there before and after to help set up, take down equipment, and possibly deliver voting equipment to the county Board of Elections after the polls are closed. In South Carolina, you are eligible to be a poll manager if you are a registered voter, and you are eligible to work on Election Day in your home county or an adjoining county within the state (e.g., if you are registered in York County, you could work in York, Cherokee, Union, Chester or Lancaster). While all voters in South Carolina now use the same voting equipment, each county is responsible for its own training and setting its training schedule. You should contact your home county's Board of Elections for more information. Contact information can be found through this link:

<https://www.scvotes.org/south-carolina-poll-manager-information-page>