

Political Coalition Change in the 1960s

GE60 Seminar 5, Spring 2009

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Class: Monday 3-5:50 in Bunche 2156
Office Hours: Monday 9-11 AM

Description

This course is about conflict within political parties. Each party is a coalition of diverse interests. Yet to produce a coherent image and agenda, the parties' coalitional groups must work within party institutions to aggregate their competing demands into a united front. This course focuses on the efforts of organized interests to use party institutions to obtain control over public policy and on how those efforts contribute to continuity and change in American politics.

Reading

All the required reading will be made available on the course web site.

Graded Assignments

The course grade will be determined by the following:

- **Class Participation and Engagement** (25 percent)
- **Data Project** (10 percent) Part 1 due April 13, part 2 due April 20
- **Midterm Exam** (25 percent) Tentatively scheduled for May 11 (Week 7)
- **Research Paper** (30 percent) Due June 1
- **Screencast Presentation of Research Project** (10 percent) Post the screencast by May 25

Reading Assignments

1. Politics, Democracy, and Political Parties (March 30)

Required

None.

2. The Electorate (April 6)

Required

Steel. 1980. "Tyranny of the Masses." Chapter 17 of *Walter Lippmann and the American Century*, pp. 211-19.

Bartels. 2003. "Democracy with Attitudes." In *Electoral Democracy*, pp. 48-78.

Kuklinski and Peyton. 2007. "Belief Systems and Political Decision Making." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, pp. 445-461.

Philpot. 2007. "Toward a Theory of Party Image Change." Chapter 1 of *Race, Republicans, and the Return of the Party of Lincoln*, pp. 10-30.

Recommended

Lippmann. "The World Outside and the Pictures in Our Heads." Chapter 1 of *Public Opinion*.

3. Elites and the Structure of Public Opinion (April 13)

Required

Sniderman and Levendusky. 2007. "An institutional theory of political choice." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, pp. 437-456.

Zaller. 1992. "Information, Predispositions, and Opinion", "The Mainstream and Polarization Effects", and "Basic Processes of Attitude Change." Chapters 2, 6, 7 of *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*, pp. 6-39, 97-117, 118-150.

Recommended

Hetherington. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 619-31.

[Dan Ariely lecture on behavioral economics \(podcast\)](#).

4. Presidential Selection and the American Party System (April 20)

Required

McCormick. 1982. "Introduction and Overview" and "The Party Game." Chapters 1 and 6 of *The Presidential Game: The Origins of American Presidential Politics*, pp. 3-15, 164-206.

Cohen, Karol, Noel and Zaller. 2008. "Whose Parties?" Chapter 2 of *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*, pp. 19-45.

Polsby and Wildavsky. 2004. "American Parties and Democracy." Chapter 7 of *Presidential Elections, 11th Edition*, pp. 229-39.

5. Change in the Democratic Party (April 27)

Required

Rosenman. 1952. "A New Alignment of the Parties for the Future: Roosevelt and Willkie, 1944." Chapter 24 of *Working with Roosevelt*, pp. 463-70.

Martin. 1979. "The Liberal Triumph." Chapter 9 of *Civil Rights and the Crisis of Liberalism: The Democratic Party 1945-1976*, pp. 157-88

Feinstein and Schickler. 2008. "Platforms and Partners: The Civil Rights Realignment Reconsidered." *Studies in American Political Development* 22: 1-31.

Recommended

Frederickson. 2001. "The New Deal and Southern Politics." Chapter 1 of *The Dixiecrat Revolt and the End of the Solid South, 1932-1968*.

6. Change in the Republican Party (May 4)

Required

Novak. 1965. "The View from 1960." Chapter 2 of *The Agony of the GOP 1964*, pp. 7-24.

- Reichley. 1981. "The Republican Party in 1969." Chapter 2 of *Conservatives in an Age of Change*, pp. 22-37.
- William Rusher. "Crossroads for the GOP." *National Review*, 12 February 1963.
- Jacob Javits. "The Road Back for the GOP." *New York Times Magazine*, 15 November 1964.
- Edsall and Edsall. 1991. "A Pivotal Year" and "After 1964: The Fraying Concensus." Chapters 2 and 3 of *(Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics)*, pp. 32-73.

Recommended

- Patterson. 1966. "A Conservative Coalition Forms in Congress." *Journal of American History* 52(4): 757-772.
- Edsall and Edsall. 1991. "Building a Top-Down Coalition." Chapter 1 of *(Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics)*, pp. 3-31.

7. Liberalism (May 11)

Required

- Forcey. 1961. "Introduction" of *The Crossroads of Liberalism: Croly, Weyl, Lippmann and the Progressive Era, 1900-1925*, pp. ix-xxv.
- Schlesinger. "Where Does Liberalism Go from Here?" *New York Times Magazine*, 4 August 1957.
- Starr. 2007. "Lineages of Democratic Liberalism." Chapter 4 of *Freedom's Power: The True Force of Liberalism*, pp. 85-116.

Recommended

- Noel. 2006. "When Snollygosters Meet True-Believers: Ideologies, Parties and Their Interaction." Chapter 1 of *The Coalition of Merchants*.

8. Conservatism (May 18)

Required

- Nash. 1976. "The Revolt of the Libertarians" and "The Recovery of Tradition and Values." Chapters 1 and 3 of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America*, pp. 1-29, 50-73.

Recommended

- Reichley. 1981. "The Conservative Tradition." Chapter 1 of *Conservatives in an Age of Change*, pp. 1-21.
- Nash. 1976. "Fission or Fusion: The Quest for Philosophical Order," "What is Conservatism in America? The Search for a Viable Heritage," and "What is Conservatism in America? The Straussians, Willmoore Kendall, and the 'Virtuous People'." Chapters 6-8 of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America*.
- Friedman. 1962. "The Role of Government in a Free Society." Chapter 2 of *Capitalism and Freedom*.

9. Memorial Day (May 25)

10. Screencasts (June 1)

Required

- Watch the screencasts your classmates post on the internet.