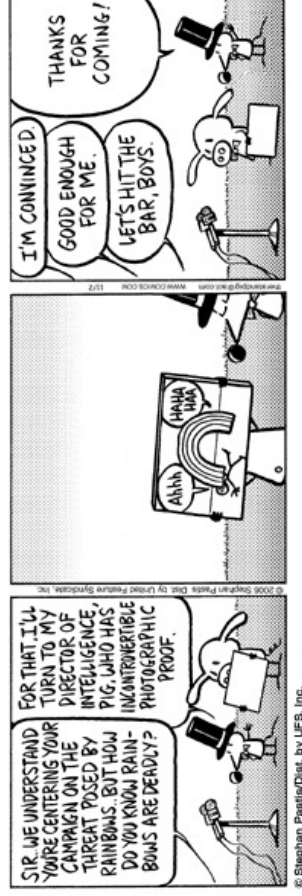
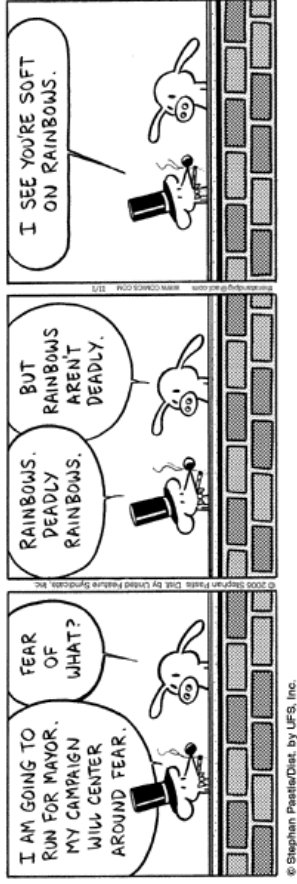


# Political Parties and Elections

POLI 301, sec. 3003  
 Fall 2007  
 Prof. Moran

<b>Class Hours</b>	M, 10-10:50 W, 9-10:50
<b>Classroom</b>	M: K-112; W: R-240
<b>My office:</b>	K-646
<b>Office Hours</b>	M, T, W 8-9 am M, noon -1 pm T, 11 am - noon
<b>Phone</b>	201-200-3259
<b>Email</b>	fmoran@njcu.edu
<b>Web Page</b>	<a href="http://faculty.njcu.edu/fmoran">http://faculty.njcu.edu/fmoran</a>

Final Exam:  
**Friday, 14 December, 10:30 am in K-112**



## I. Description

In this course we will examine two essential elements of democratic political life: political parties and elections (which explains the clever title for the course). During the semester we will also pay special attention to the November elections and the ongoing presidential election campaign.

## II. Materials

We have two (2) required textbook for the course:

Hetherington and Keefe. 2007. *Parties, Politics, and Public Policy in America*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press.

Wayne, Stephen J. 2005. *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Election?* Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press.

## III. Requirements

The basic requirements for the grade in this course reflect the fact that this is an upper level political science course, geared primarily for majors and those students who have mastered at least the basics of American politics.

### A. Midterm Exam (20%)

We will have a midterm exams sometime in early October, probably a take-home. Questions will be distributed at least 2 weeks prior to the due date, along with a grading rubric.

### B. Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be held in class and given at the date and time designated by the University (14 December at 10:30 am in K-112). If you cannot make that time due to some emergency, I will offer some alternative dates. It will be essay format and you will receive a study guide well in advance of the exam.

### C. Class Project (40%)

For the class project portion, each of you – working individually or in teams of 2 – will track and research the campaigns of one of the announced 2008 presidential candidates. Basically, you will be designing a successful campaign strategy outlining how, exactly, your candidate will win his/her party's nomination. The fruits of your labor will be a 15 minute class presentation.

### D. Class Participation (10%)

Class participation will be based on both the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions. Obviously, coming up with a brilliant *bon mot* in September and then sitting mute for the rest of the semester is as unrewarding as speaking constantly but off topic. Participation comes in various forms and the grading will reflect the fact that not everybody is comfortable speaking in a large class. To that end, we will have numerous small group exercises that should allow each of you to speak and express your views.

Generally I use the following as a rough guide for determining this part of the grade:

Participation in the form of regular *attentive* attendance to class is generally good for a “B” for this portion of the grade.

I don't have a hard mathematical formula for determining "regular attendance" – i.e., I don't take attendance and you don't have a set number of classes that you can miss before a penalty kicks in. You're all adults and you should want to come to class rather than being coerced into doing so. Please note the "attentive" part of the criteria. Stopping by regularly but then spending the class time dozing, dining, and engaging in other disruptive behaviors will adversely affect the grade.

The same general rules apply in the discussions (both full class and small group). As a rule, it's better to speak more rather than less, but the discussion has to be on topic. Screaming in order to browbeat your peers into submission, for instance, will adversely affect the grade.

Occasional pop quizzes (see "Caveats" below) will be factored into this portion of the grade as well.

#### **Extra Credit:**

You have at least 2 chances for extra credit in this course. NJCU and *The Jersey Journal* conduct survey research on Hudson County residents. These polls are invariably political (this semester we'll focus much on the New Jersey legislative elections and the upcoming presidential primary season) and are featured regularly in the local and occasionally the national media. In order to conduct the surveys, we need student support, particularly in the form of phone callers. The polls are conducted on evenings throughout the semester (dates will be distributed shortly). They require you to spend roughly 3 hours (from 6 to 9 pm) manning the phones. In addition to the extra credit (a third of a grade on the nearest exam to the poll, meaning if you receive a "B" on the exam, the extra credit moves it to a "B+"), you get some remuneration from NJCU (I think it's \$10.00/hour), and we provide free donuts!

## **IV. Meeting Schedule**

### **Part I: The Founding Period**

5 Sept: Introduction  
Reading: Pick up the textbooks mentioned above.

10-12 Sept: Parties and the Political System  
Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 1  
Wayne, 1,2, 4

17-19 Sept: American Parties I  
Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 2

24 -26 Sept: American Parties II  
Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 2

1-10 Oct: Party Nominations  
Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 3  
Wayne, Ch. 7

**The midterm will be due sometime around here.**

15-24 Oct: Campaign Finance  
Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 4  
Wayne, Ch. 5

## Caveats

1. This syllabus is meant as a guide for the course. While I will do my best to maintain the pace outlined above, I am not guaranteeing that that will in fact occur. *Any substantive changes related to due dates, course content, or course requirements will be distributed in class.*

2. Please do your best to **get to class on time**. I am well aware of the joys of traveling in this little corner of the Garden State. That being said, you all know traffic is a nightmare and parking can be a pain, so plan accordingly. Tardiness adversely affects the “Participation” part of the grade.

3. **Keep the food consumption to a minimum**. Coffee, tea, or something to drink is fine; a five-course meal from the truck is not. If you’re going to chow down, bring enough to share with everybody or keep it out of the classroom (and I strongly prefer the latter – eat on your own time).

4. **Turn off the cell phones, pagers, two ways, Gameboys, Ipods, or whatever latest bit of technological wizardry you possess**. If I hear or see any of these in use during class, class stops and it’s quiz time. The grades for the quizzes will be factored in to the “participation” part of the course.

5. **Respect your colleagues**. Politics is great fun to talk about and I want to encourage you all to express your thoughts freely, but be mindful of the impact your words can have on others in the room.

6. **Missed and Late Exam Policy**: If we have any take home exams, all exams are due on the date assigned. Exams received after that time will be docked 1/3 of a grade for each class day late. In the event of missed in-class exam (including the final), you will receive a grade of “F” for the missed work

29 Oct-7 Nov: Parties, Congress, & Policy

Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 5

12-14 Nov: Partisanship & Elections

Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 6  
Wayne, Ch. 2

19-28 Nov: Electoral Systems

Reading: TBA  
Wayne, Ch. 3, 9

3 – 10 Dec: Class Presentations

12 Dec: Review and Conclusion

Reading: Hetherington & Keefe, Ch. 7

So what’s it all about, anyway?

14 Dec: Final Exam

unless you give me prior notification of the conflict and reason for missing the exam.

7. **Plagiarism:** All submitted work must be the product of your own thought. If you are found to have plagiarized all or part of an assignment, you will receive a grade of "F" for that assignment. Furthermore, notification of, and supporting documentation for, the violation will be forwarded to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Dean of Students. Consult your student handbook for the gory details.