

Political Science V4311x  
Fall 2001

Prof. Ester Fuchs  
406 Lehman Hall  
**Office Hrs:** Mon. 12:15-1:30  
Wed. 2:00-3:00  
Email: [ef25@columbia.edu](mailto:ef25@columbia.edu)

*POS V4311x: American Parties and Elections*

This course is concerned with the changing role of political parties and elections in the American political system. We examine the role of parties and elections in democratic government, the historical development of party conflict; the structure of party organization, the media and media consultants during presidential elections; campaign finance and political action committees; who votes and why; and the future of American political parties.

There has been an explosion of information about elections available to the public. It is expected that you keep up with current events by reading the periodical of your choice. Viewing of the news would also be helpful. At the end of the syllabus is a list of internet sites related which may or may not be interesting. Think about how the election is covered on each medium, whether there are differences in form and substance, and whether the medium affects the message.

**Books:** The following books are recommended for purchase and are available at the Columbia Bookstore. All books and articles have been placed on Reserve at Barnard and Lehman Libraries.

J.A. Aldrich, **Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America** (The University of Chicago Press, 1995)

A. Dershowitz, **Supreme Injustice: How the High Court Hijacked Election 2000** (Oxford U. Press, 2001)

E. Diamond and S. Bates, **The Spot, 3rd edition** (MIT Press, 1992)

William Flanigan and Nancy Zingale, **Political Behavior of the American Electorate, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.** (CQ Press, 1998)

T. Hollihan, **Uncivil Wars: Political Campaigns in a Media Age** (Bedford/St. Martins, 2001)

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections** (Chatham House 2000)

G. Pomper ed. **The Election of 2000** (Chatham House, 2001)

F. Piven and R. Cloward, **Why Americans Still Don't Vote** (Beacon Press, 2000)

J. Sundquist, **Dynamics of the Party System, Revised ed.** (Brookings, 1983)

**Requirements:** *Undergraduates and Masters students:* Attendance is required. A midterm is scheduled for October 24 in class. An in-class final will be scheduled at the end of the semester. *Doctoral Students:* Attendance is required. A research paper, 30-40 pages, is due the last day of class. Topic and outline must be approved by the instructor.

## THE PARTY IN AMERICAN POLITICS - ITS ORIGINS AND PURPOSE

September 5 & September 10

H. Jaffa, "The Nature and Origins of the American Party System" in R. Goldwin, **Political Parties USA** and Xerox (Reserve only)

E. Banfield, "In Defense of the American Party System" in R. Goldwin, **Political Parties USA** and Xerox (Reserve only)

J. Aldrich, **Why Parties** pp. 1-64

September 12 & September 17

**The Federalist Papers** #s 10, 51, 68 (Reserve only)

J. Aldrich, **Why Parties** pp. 65-96

## ELECTIONS: THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCESS AND PARTY REFORM

September 21(Friday) & September 24 (No class Sept. 19)

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections**, "The Nomination Process" pp.97-150

W. Mayer, "The Presidential Nominations" in Pomper **The Election of 2000**

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections**, "Appraisals" pp 217-259

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

September 26, September 28 (Friday) & October 1 (Friday) (No classes Oct. 3)

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections**, "Money" pp 54-69

A. Corrado, "**Financing the 2000 Election**" in Pomper **The Election of 2000**

T. Hollihan, **Uncivil Wars**, "The Best Government Money Can Buy: Financing Campaigns" pp. 195-219

## POLITICAL CONSULTANTS & THE MEDIA: POLITICS WITHOUT PARTIES?

October 8 & October 15 (Friday) (No classes Oct. 10)

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections** pp. "What Do They Do?" pp. 151-216

E. Diamond & S. Bates, **The Spot** pp. 1-44; 64-75; 110-120; 345-398

O. Sacks, "The President's Speech" in **The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat** pp. 80-84 (Reserve only)

W. Flanigan and N. Zingale, **Political Behavior of the American Electorate** pp.137-162

October 17 & October 22

T. Hollihan, **Uncivil Wars** pp.1-176

M. Hershey, "The Campaign and the Media" in Pomper **The Election of 2000**

## MIDTERM OCTOBER 24

## THE AMERICAN VOTER, THE PROBLEM OF TURNOUT AND THE DECLINE OF PARTISANSHIP

October 26 (Fri. makeup) & October 29

W. Flanigan and N. Zingale, **Political Behavior of the American Electorate** pp.27-103;  
165-189

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections** pp. “Voters” pp. 3-27

F.F. Piven and R. Cloward, **Why Americans Still Don’t Vote**

### Public Opinion and Groups in the Electoral Process

October 31 & November 7 & November 12

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections** pp. “Groups” pp. 28-51

K. Frankovic and M. McDermott, “Public Opinion in the 2000 Election” in Pomper **Election 2000**

G. Pomper, “The Presidential Election” in Pomper **Election 2000**

Dean Lacy and J. Grant, “The Invisible Foot: The Impact of the Economy” in H. Weissberg, **Reelection 1996** (Reserve only)

Barbara Norrander, “Is the Gender Gap Growing?” in H. Weisberg, **Reelection 1996**

K. Tate, “Structural Dependence or Group Loyalty? The Black Vote in 1992” in H. Weisberg, **Democracy’s Feast** pp. 179-194 (Reserve only)

Louis De Sipio, R. de la Garza and M. Setzler, “Awash in the Mainstream: Latinos and the 1996 Elections” in R. De la Garza an L. DeSipio, **Awash in the Mainstream: Latino Politics in the 1996 Elections** (Reserve only)

### PARTY REALIGNMENT AND ITS CAUSES

November 14 & November 19

J. Sundquist, **The Dynamics of the Party System**, pp. 1-105; 198-331

A. Abramowitz and K. Saunders, “Party Polarization and Ideological Realignment” in L. Maisel, **The Parties Respond, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Edition** pp.128-143 (Reserve only)

### THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN PARTIES

November 14 & November 27 & November 19

J. Aldrich, **Why Parties** pp. 277-296

N. Polsby and A. Wildavsky, **Presidential Elections** pp. “American Parties and Democracy” pp. 260-272

### DO ELECTIONS MATTER?: The 2000 Presidential Election

December 3, & December 5 & December 10

W. Flanigan and N. Zingale, **Political Behavior** pp.1-26

W.C. McWilliams, “The Meaning of the Election” in Pomper **Election 2000**

A. Dershowitz, **How the High Court Hijacked Election 2000**