

PSCI 3031: Political Parties and Interest Groups

UPDATED: January 16, 2023

Spring 2023

HLMS 141, T/TH 11:00am-12:15pm

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Office Hours: 2:30-4:30pm Tuesdays, and by appointment

Course Overview

Political parties and interest groups are central to a functioning democracy because they act as the intermediaries that link citizens to government. They organize and mobilize citizens, represent interests and voice concerns, influence policy, and, in the case of political parties, directly compete for political office. Yet Americans are also skeptical of organized groups, from

item. Students with perfect attendance but little or no participation should expect to receive a 70% on the participation and attendance grade.

Class Points (25%): There will be a variety of iClicker questions/polls, quizzes, short homework assignments, and in class assignments throughout the semester. Collectively, these assignments will be worth 25% of your final grade. iClicker questions will be used to test assigned readings, recent class materials, and for class polls. Quizzes will cover the readings assigned for that day and recent class material and will take place in the first 10-15 minutes of class. **I will drop the three lowest iClicker scores, quizzes, or in class assignments when calculating final grades (homework assignments will not be dropped)**. Important note: this grade item will be calculated as a running tally of total points, NOT as an average of the individual quizzes/assignments. In other words, some iClicker days, quizzes, or assignments will be worth more points than others and your final score will be your total points earned out of the total possible points. For example, if you scored a 3/3 on one quiz and a 4/5 on another, your final score would be a 7/8 or 87.5%, NOT the average of 100% on the first quiz and an 80% on the second.

Final Paper (25%): There will be one 2000-2500 word paper worth 25% of the final grade. The paper is due by 11:59pm Thursday April 27th to Canvas as a Word or PDF document (no hard copy is required). More details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet.

Exams (40%): There will be two exams, each worth 20% of your final grade. The exams will be 90-minute timed “take-home” exams administered through Canvas. All exams will be open note. The exams will be composed of “long answer” style questions in which students will answer four of the possible questions/prompts. Exam answers do not need to be written in an essay form (e.g. no introduction or conclusion), but should be written as compl

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning

PSCI 3031: Parties and Interest Groups Class Schedule

Updated: January 19, 2023

Assignments are to be completed before class

Class Date(s)	Topic	Assignment
17-Jan	Course Introduction	N/A
19-Jan	Factions and American Government	Federalist #10 and #51
24+26-Jan	What are Parties? Why do they exist?	Hershey Ch.1 Friedersdorf "Kyrsten Sinema..." Aldrich Ch.2 (Hard reading! Do your best)
31-Jan+2-Feb	Why Two Parties? And the Fate of Third Parties	Sarto 78.56 55u6.3 (ng)10.8 (!)-3.9 (D)32 1 Tl

