

**San José State University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Pols 190: Senior Seminar, Section2 – FALL 2018**

**PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Sergio Béjar-López
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 402C
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-8330 (during office hours only)
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Sergio.Bejar@sjsu.edu">Sergio.Bejar@sjsu.edu</a> (preferred method of contact)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 10:30-11:45 AM, and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 12:00-1:15 PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	HGH 116

**Course Description**

This capstone course culminates your experience within the political science major field. It is completely dedicated to the study of political parties and party systems, providing answers to numerous questions. For example: Why do political parties exist? What's the origin of political parties? What parties are more likely to emerge at specific critical junctures (i.e. economic crises or revolutions)? What's the internal organization of parties? What are the effects of electoral rules on parties and party systems? These debates have guided the study of parties and party systems in developed and developing democracies alike for more than eighty years.

You should note that none of the questions mentioned above asks why political parties are important. But this will be a recurrent debate throughout the semester. In other words, can democracy work without parties? Since Schattschneider (1942), very few scholars have argued against his main argument that it is impossible to think of democracy without political parties. Yet we will explore a variety of scenarios and empirical evidence from cases where democracy co-exists with very weak or inexistent parties. When parties are not able to translate the preferences of citizens to government or policies, representative democracy suffers and this in turn endangers democratic stability.

The course has three thematic blocks: (1) the origin of parties; (2) models of political parties; and (3) party systems. We will focus on analyzing the different theoretical perspectives rather

than specific authors. Therefore, we will study a wide range of explanations including classical institutionalism, rational choice, organizational theories, and sociological and institutional explanations. We will do so by reading (and discussing) numerous seminal works in the discipline.

### **Communication and Office Hours**

YOU MUST CHECK YOUR CANVAS PAGE ROUTINELY. Please feel free to contact me at [sergio.bejar@sjsu.edu](mailto:sergio.bejar@sjsu.edu). I will respond to your emails (with questions about class) within 24 hours, and often sooner. Do not wait to contact me until the last minute to email me about a paper or an exam; I receive many, many emails before deadlines and exams, and may not be able to email you back immediately. Please abstain yourself from sending emails to inform me that you are not attending class as I often do not reply to them.

Office hours are a great opportunity for you to get additional feedback on your work or just continue a conversation that we began during class – please use them! My office hours are in Clark 402C, from 10:30 to 11:45 AM M & W.

### **Political Science Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

1. Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
2. Application: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
3. Disciplinary methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.
4. Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
5. Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political parties and party systems.

2. Evaluate and critically analyze theoretical arguments regarding the importance of political parties as political organizations, as well as their role in representative democracies.
3. Understand the causes and consequences of party systems, and their relationship with electoral systems.
4. Read and critically analyze the literature, conduct original research, and propose original solutions to contemporary problems related to parties and party systems in developed and developing nations.

Students will satisfy these requirements through a combination of class discussion, exams, and written papers.

### **Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### **Required readings**

I will make additional readings available to you via the Canvas page for the class.

### **Attendance**

This is a challenging course. Attendance and punctuality are highly recommended. Attendance at lectures has always been a good predictor of a student's performance on exams. If you miss class, you are expected to get notes from a fellow student – 'private make-up lectures' with the professor will not take place. Also, please abstain from emailing me to inform that you will not make it to class, as I often do not reply to those emails.

Courtesy, active listening, and participation will make this course a more enjoyable and productive experience for you and for others. Please plan to dedicate your full attention to the discussion and activities of class.

### **Policy on Technology in the Classroom**

1. This classroom is a tech-free zone. Laptops are not permitted unless you have an accommodation from AEC. If you want to refer to assigned readings during class

discussions, bring hard copies of articles to class or notes that you've taken on assigned readings.

2. Students should not use text or use cell phones in class. Violations of this rule will result in a deduction in your participation grade for each observed incident.

## **Course Requirements**

Grades in the course will be based on the following items:

- **15% Discussion Co-Leader**
- **30% Midterm Exams (2)**
- **30% Research Paper Presentation**
- **15% Research Paper**
- **10% Participation**

### **Discussion Co-Leader (15%)**

Once during the semester, you will lead (with my help) the discussion of one of the readings assigned. Please look through the syllabus and choose the topic that interests you the most. You will sign-up for a presentation during the first day of classes. Your job is to explain to your classmates the day's readings and be prepared to answer questions. In addition, you should prepare at least 3 discussion questions. Some of the readings are very technical, but you are not required to explain any statistical results. However, you are required to explain the puzzle, the research question, the theory, and how the author(s) arrived to the results. Finally, you must prepare an outline (due at 9 am the day of your presentation) that will be distributed to other members of the class. A good presentation should last between 12 and 15 minutes. All the references for the readings will be added to your CANVAS page. If you have trouble understanding the material, come and see me at least 2 days before your presentation. No change of make-up of presentations under any circumstances.

### **Two In-Class Midterm Exam (15% each)**

The exams will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You must sit in the exam at the scheduled time. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical excuse. Make travel plans accordingly. The exams will include material presented both in the reading and in the lectures.

### **Research Paper (30%)**

The research paper assignment consists of a 15-20 page paper. The guidelines for the paper will be discussed extensively throughout the semester. In brief, the idea is to incorporate the readings and discussions into a paper that addresses a puzzle that interests you. Your paper will include:

1. A statement of the research question and an explanation of its relevance
2. An explanation of your theory and a statement of the specific hypotheses to be tested

3. Descriptions of the sample and variables included in the analysis
4. Presentation of methods (i.e. how you plan to test your hypothesis)
6. Discussion and conclusions

### **Presentation (15%)**

This presentation will involve a summary of your research paper. You will present your topic, argument, and your findings. The presentation should last 10-15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of Q&A.

### **Participation (10%)**

Your participation in class is very important. Students are required to read all of the assigned readings and be prepared to speak about the main arguments/points in the readings. A significant portion of your grade will be based on your participation in class discussions and demonstrated familiarity with the readings. In addition, you must submit at least 2 questions each class (through CANVAS). You should feel free to express your opinions and make comments during class discussions, but students who score highly in this realm are able to effectively reference information presented in the readings.

If you come to class every day but never participate in class discussions or answer questions and/or if your name is called and you can't answer the question, and/or if you do not periodically submit discussion questions you will receive a "zero" for your participation grade.

### **Grading and Written Work Policies**

A+ = 97-100%; A = 93-96.9%; A- = 90-92.9%  
B+ = 87-89.9%; B = 83-86.9%; B- = 80-82.9%  
C+ = 77-79.9%; C = 73-76.9%; C- = 70-72.9%  
D+ = 67-69.9%; D = 63-66.9%; D- = 60-62.9%  
F = 59.99% - 0%

### **Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course**

I expect my students to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this.

### **Late Work**

Missed exams may be re-taken under the following circumstances only:

1) Death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) within 2 weeks before the exam.

2) Unforeseeable medical emergency affecting yourself, your spouse, or your child (something beyond feeling under the weather---car accident, major sickness, or the like).

3) Participation in an official SJSU-sponsored academic or sporting event.

In the case of reasons (1) or (3), you must give me at least 24 hours advance notice (such as an e-mail or phone call) that you will miss the exam or it may not be made up. I may require supporting documentation. Conflicts with a work schedule and leaving for a non-academic trip or vacation are not an excuse to miss an exam or any other assignment in this class; I suggest that you consult the course schedule in advance and drop the course if you cannot be present for the classes and assignments.

I will not accept late home-works.

Each day the research paper is late will result in a drop of 5 percentage points, e.g., 95% to a 90%, etc.

All work is late if submitted after the date and time specified as the due date, **even if only one minute late**. The number of days late is counted from the due date and time. To ensure fairness (particularly in a large class), this policy will be strictly enforced.

### **Extra-Credit**

There will be NO extra-credit opportunities. If you are looking for a course that allows students to make-up points lost in exams or assignments, this class is not for you.

### **University Policies**

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs **maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.**”

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

### **Disclaimer**

All information in this syllabus may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics and Readings
1	Aug 22	<b>Overview and course requirements</b>
2	Aug 27	<b>Introduction: What to look for in a text?</b>
		<b>PART 1: ORIGIN OF POLITICAL PARTIES</b>
2	Aug 29	<b>Why Political Parties? Where Do They Operate?</b> <b>Read:</b> Dalton y Wattenberg (2000): pp. 3-10
3	Sep 3	<b>Origin of Parties 1</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Duverger (1954): pp. 15-29. Presenter: _____ (2) Sartori, (1976): pp. 17-33. Presenter: _____
3	Sep 5	<b>Origin of Parties 2: Critical Junctures.</b> <b>Read: (1)</b> Lipset y Rokkan (1967). Presenter: _____
4	Sep 10	<b>Origin of Parties: Micro-foundations and Rational Choice</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Downs (1956). (2) Aldrich [1995] pp. 1-61. Presenter: _____
4	Sep 12	<b>Critique to Theories About the Origin of Parties</b> <b>Read:</b> Boix 2(007): pp. 499-521.
		<b>PART 2: TYPES OF POLITICA PARTIES</b>
5	Sep 17	<b>Internal Organization of Parties 1: Agents and Factors</b> <b>Read:</b> Duverger (1954): pp. 31-90.
5	Sep 19	<b>Internal Organization of Parties 2: The Party as a System</b> <b>Read:</b> Sartori (1976): pp. 105-154. Presenter: _____
6	Sep 24	<b>Is Internal Organization Important?</b> <b>Read:</b> Levistsky (2004). Presenter: _____

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>
6	Sep 26	<b>Location on the Ideological Spectrum</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Norris (1995). Presenter: _____  (2) Baras et al (2008). Presenter; _____
7	Oct 1	<b>A Comprehensive Typology of Political Parties</b> <b>Read:</b> Gunther and Diamond (2003). Presenter: _____
7	Oct 3	<b>Exercise: Typology of Political Parties</b> <b>Read:</b> TBA
8	Oct 8	<b>Review Midterm Exam 1</b>
8	Oct 10	<b>Midterm Exam 1</b>
		<b>PART 3: PARTY SYSTEMS</b>
9	Oct 15	<b>Institutional Theories of Party Systems 1</b> <b>Read:</b> Duverger (1954). Presenter: _____
9	Oct 17	<b>Institutional Theories of Party Systems 2</b> <b>Read:</b> Sartori (1976). Presenter: _____
10	Oct 22	<b>Sociological and Historical Theories of Party Systems</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Lipset and Rokkan (1967). Presenter: _____  (2) Collier and Collier (1991). Presenter: _____
10	Oct 24	<b>Institutionalization of Party Systems 1</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Mainwaring and Scully (1995). Presenter: _____  (2) Randall & Svåsand (2002). Presenter: _____
11	Oct 29	<b>Electoral Rules and Party Systems 2</b> <b>Read:</b> (1) Colomer (2005). Presenter: _____  (2) Carey and Shuggart (2005). Presenter: _____
11	Oct 31	<b>Electoral Rules and Party Systems 3</b> <b>Read:</b> Cox (1997). Presenter: _____
12	Nov 5	<b>Reading Day</b>



<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>
12	Nov 7	<b>Spatial Models of Parties and Party Systems</b> <b>Read:</b> Enelow y Hinich (1983). Presenter: _____
13	Nov 12	<b>Nationalization of Party Systems</b> <b>Read:</b> Jones and Mainwaring (2003). Presenter: _____
13	Nov 14	<b>Schools of Electoral Behavior</b> <b>Read:</b> Norris (2004). Presenter: _____
14	Nov 19	<b>TBA</b>
14	Nov 21	<b><u>Thanksgiving. No Class!</u></b>
15	Nov 26	<b>Presentations</b>
15	Nov 28	<b>Presentations</b>
16	Dec 3	<b>Midterm 2</b>
16	Dec 5	<b>Presentations</b>
17	Dec 10	<b>Presentations</b>
Final Exam		<b><u>Final Draft of Research Report Due: Monday December 17<sup>th</sup></u></b>