

PSCI 301
Electoral Politics

Stan Luger
Fall 2011

Required Texts

E.E. Schattschneider, The Semisovereign People

Alexander Keyssar, The Right to Vote

I A Brief History of the Political Party in American Politics

Assignment: Bibby and Schaffner, "Parties and Politics in America: An Overview" and "The Party Battle in America," from Politics, Parties and Elections in America, 6th ed., pp. 1-54 ®.

II The Political Organization of Conflict

1-Parties and Democratic Theory

Assignment: E.E. Schattschneider.

2-A Participatory Critique

Assignment: Benjamin Barber, "The Undemocratic Party System," in Robert Goldwin, ed., Political Parties in the Eighties (AEI Press, 1980), pp. 34-49 (R).

III Voting

1-The Contested History of Voting Rights

Assignment: Keyssar, pp. Introduction-266.

2-Theories of Non Voting

Assignment: Piven and Cloward, "Why Nonvoting?" in Why Americans Still Don't Vote, (Beacon Press, 2000), pp. 23-44 ®.

3-Why Non Voting and Apathy are Good

Assignment Bernard Berelson, et. al., "Democratic Practice and Democratic Theory," in Voting (University of Chicago Press, 1954), pp. 305-323 (R).

IV The Current Electoral Era

1-The Modern Packaging of Elections: Media and Adverstising

Assignment: Robert Westbrook, "Politics as Consumption," in Lears and Fox, ed., The Culture of Consumption (Pantheon Books, 1983), pp. 145-173 (R).

2-Campaign Finance: Money and Politics

A-The Basics of Campaign Finance

Assignment: Stephen Wayne, "Campaign Finance," from The Road to the White House 2008, (CQ Press, 2008) pp. 32-74 ®.

B-Money and Political Influence

Assignment: Dan Clawson, et. al., “Gifts: Networks of Obligation,” “Access: Loopholes as a System,” in Dollars and Votes (Temple University Press, 1998), pp. 29-62, 63-106 (R); www.crp.org (tba).

C-Unleashing Corporate Giving: Campaign Spending and Free Speech

Assignment:; Richard Hasen, “*Citizens United* and the Illusion of Coherence,” Michigan Law Review, Vol 109, (2011), pp. 581-623; .Ronald Dworkin, “The Decision That Threatens Democracy,” New York Review of Books, May 13, 2010.

3-Recent Elections

A- 2000: Extraordinary Results

Assignment: Gerald Pomper, “The Presidential Election,” pp. 125-154, in The Election of 2000, ed. Gerald Pomper, (Chatham House, 2001),(R).

B-2004: Solidifying the Republican Era

Assignment: Thomas Edsall, “Anger Points: Polarization as a Republican Strategy,” from Building Red America, pp. 50-77, ®; Gerald Pomper, “The Presidential Election: The Ills of American Politics After 9/11,” and Nicole Mellow, “Voting Behavior: The 2004 Election and the Roots of Republican Success,” in Michael Nelson, ed., The Elections of 2004, (CQ Press, 2005), pp.42-68 and pp.69-87. ®

C-2008: What Kind of Change?

Assignment: Gerald M. Pomper, “The Presidential Election: Change Comes to America,” pp. 45-73 and Nicole Mellow, “Voting Behavior: A Blue Nation?”pp. 145-162 in Michael Nelson, The Elections of 2008 (CQ Press, 2009). (R)

D-2010 and the Tea Party

Assignment: Gary Jacobson, “The Republican Resurgence in 2010,” Political Science Quarterly, vol. 126, No. 1, 2011, pp. 27-52; Williamson, Skocpol, and Coggin, “The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism,” Perspectives on Politics, Vol. 9, No. 1, March 2011, pp. 25-43; Jeffrey Stonecash, “The 2010 Elections: Party Pursuits, Voter Perceptions, and the Chancey Game of Politics,” The Forum, Col. 8, Iss. 4, Articles 11, (2010), pp. 1-12. (R)

V The Political Landscape: Ideological and Partisan Dividing Lines.

Assignment: “Beyond Red vs. Blue: The Political Typology” Pew Research Center for People and the Press, May 4, 2011, pp. 1-96. (R)

Course Requirements

- 1-There will be two essay tests. A make-up exam will only be given to those with a legitimate excuse that is provided before the exam or immediately after. Each exam will be worth 33 percent of the final grade. Class participation and quizzes will comprise the remaining 33 percent.
- 2-Each student will be responsible for one oral presentation on the reading. A written outline must be handed in as part of the presentation.
- 2-You are expected to do the assigned reading before each class and come prepared to discuss it. Regular and punctual attendance therefore are a must.
- 4-There may be unannounced quizzes on the reading.
- 5-Any act of cheating or plagiarism may result in failure for the course.
- 6-Students are encouraged to contact the professor with any problems or difficulties concerning the course.
- 7-Any student who thinks that they may need the assistance of the Disability Access Center should do so at the beginning of the semester.
- 8-All electronic devices should be turned off during class, unless approved in advance.
- 9-All email communication should be done through your Bear mail account to prevent messages coming from other accounts from being caught in a spam filter.