

Parties and Ideology in the American Politics

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In this course we will analyze the role of political parties and ideology in two of the major institutions the U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court. We will consider alternative ways of thinking about political divisions and trends using the U.S. Congress and Supreme Courts as critically important yet highly different venues for such divisions to manifest themselves. By the conclusion of this course, students should acquire an understanding of how ideas and parties divide Congress and the courts, both from a theoretical perspective and a historical perspective. We finish by considering future directions for party and ideology in American politics.

KEYWORDS:

United States of America, political parties, ideology, Congress, Democratic Party, Republican Party

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading: Students are expected to complete the reading before each class.

Email response: After each day, students must send a brief email response concerning a question or idea about the subject(s). Send these to Professor Bailey, baileyma@georgetown.edu, and to the TAs.

Participation in discussion: At every session, each student will be asked to identify what he or she considers the most important question or problem from at least one of the readings and/or the subject of that session.

One short paper of no more than 250 words. To be presented in the seminar.

One research paper. M.A. students, approximately 10 pages; Ph.D. students, 15-20 pages

SCHEDULE:

Monday, July 28

#1, Introduction

#2, Congress: How rules matter

- Shepsle, *Analyzing Politics, 2nd edition* (2010). Chapter 5, pp. 123 – 144.

Tuesday, July 29

#3, Parties in Congress

- Cox and McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the House of Representatives* pp. 1 – 34.

Wednesday, July 30

#4, Political preferences in Congress

- Krehbiel, [Where's the Party?](#) *British Journal of Political Science* (1993) 23: 235- 266.

#5, Ideology in U.S. history

- Geering, *Party Ideologies in America 1828 – 1996* (1998), pp. 3 -54.
- Miller and Schofield. [Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States](#) *American Political Science Review* pp. 245-260

Thursday, July 31

#6, Ideology and “idea merchants”

- Noel, *Ideology and parties* (2013), Chapter 2, 6 and 7

#7, Ideology and polarization

- Brady and Hahn, “Polarization Then and Now: A Historical Perspective,” *Red and Blue Nation?: Characteristics and Causes of America’s Polarized Politics, Volume 1*, ed. Nivola and Brady (2006) pp. 119–51.
- Galston, [Why a Hyper-Polarized Party System Weakens America’s Democracy](#), *The Hedgehog Review*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (2010)

Friday, August 1

#8, Third parties

- Explore the “no-labels” website: <http://www.nolabels.org/our-story>
- Worthen, [As Vermont Goes, So Goes the Nation](#), *New York Times* (April 6, 2014)
- Rapoport and Stone. *Three's a Crowd: The Dynamic of Third Parties, Ross Perot, and Republican Resurgence* (2007)

Monday, August 4

#9, Ideology among voters

- Broockman, An Artificial ‘Disconnect’? Assuming Americans Are Reliably Ideological Masks Public Support For Policies More Extreme Than Politicians Pursue. (2014)

#10, Discussion

- King, [“How to Write a Research Paper”](#)

Tuesday, August 5

#11, Obama and the New Deal

- Grunwald, *The New New Deal* (2012), Chapters 1-4

#12, Obama and the New Deal

- Grunwald, *The New New Deal* (2012), Chapters 5 - 7

Wednesday, August 6

#13, Tea Party

- Williamson, Skocpol and Coggin, [The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism](#) *Perspectives on Politics* (2011)
- Bailey, Mummolo and Noel, [Tea Party Influence: A Story of Activists and Elites](#), *American Politics Research* (2012)

#14, Future of the Democrats

- Teixeira, [The Obama Coalition in the 2012 Election and Beyond](#) (2012)
- Teixeira, [Building an All-In Nation](#) (2013)
- Diggles, [The New Electorate and the Future of the Democratic Party](#) (2013)

Thursday, August 7

#15, Future of the Republicans

- Chait, I Have Seen the Future of the Republican Party, and It Is George W. Bush New York (Jan 22, 2014)
- Saunders, [The GOP's Identity Crisis, National Interest](#) (March-April 2014)
- Douthat and Salam. *Grand New Party: How Republicans Can Win the Working Class and Save the American Dream*

Optional reading:

Ideology on the Supreme Court

- Bailey and Maltzman. "Does Legal Doctrine Matter? Unpacking Law and Policy Preferences on the U.S. Supreme Court" *American Political Science Review* 102, 3 (2008): 369- 384.

Changing preferences on race (and implications for polarization)

- Bailey, "Comparable Preference Estimates across Time and Institutions for the Court, Congress and Presidency" *American Journal of Political Science* 51, 3 (2007): 433-448.

Polarization

- Schaffner, Party Polarization, *The Oxford Handbook of the American Congress* (2011)