

Add Course Request

Submitted on: 2011-11-11 14:59:10

1. COURSE SUBJECT	Pols
2. COURSE NUMBER (OR PROPOSED NUMBER)	2607W
3. COURSE TITLE	American Political Parties
4. INITIATING DEPARTMENT or UNIT	Political Science
5. NAME OF SUBMITTER	Matthew Singer
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8. CONTACT PERSON	Matthew Singer
9. UNIT NUMBER of CONTACT PERSON (U-BOX)	1024
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11. EMAIL of of contact person	Email: matthew.m.singer@uconn.edu
12. Departmental Approval Date	10/12/2011
13. School/College Approval Date	10/25/2011
14. Names and Dates of additional Department and School/College approvals	
15. Proposed Implementation Date	Term: Summer, Year: 2012
16. Offered before next printed catalog is distributed?	Yes
17. General Education Content Area	
18. General Education Skill Code (W/Q). Any non-W section?	W Yes
19. Terms Offered	Semester: Fall Spring Summer Year:
20. Sections	Sections Taught: 1
21. Student Number	Students/Sections: 19
22. Clarification:	
23. Number of Credits	3 if VAR Min: Max: credits each term
24. INSTRUCTIONAL PATTERN	Either two or three class periods a week, depending upon the semester being taught and department scheduling.

25. Will this course be taught in a language other than English?	No If yes, then name the language:
26. Please list any prerequisites, recommended preparation or suggested preparation: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800, Pols 1602	
27. Is Instructor, Dept. Head or Unit Consent Required ?	No
28. Permissions and Exclusions: Open only to Majors	
29. Is this course repeatable for credit ?	If yes, total credits allowed: Allow multiple enrollments in same term? No
30. Grading Basis	Graded
31. If satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading is proposed, please provide rationale :	
32. Will the course or any sections of the course be taught as Honors? AsHonors	
33. Additional Details:	
34. Special Attributes:	
35. REGIONAL CAMPUS AVAILABILITY: It could be taught at the other regional campuses if staffing allows it, but the primary instructor for the course who designed it will be in residence in Storrs.	
36. PROVIDE THE PROPOSED TITLE AND COMPLETE CATALOG COPY: POLS 2607 American Political Parties Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: POLS 1602. Analysis of the aims, organization, and growth of parties in the United States. POLS 2607 W American Political Parties Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: POLS 1602.	
37. RATIONALE FOR ACTION REQUESTED Pols 2607 already exists and is taught by Dr. Ron Schurin. Ron would like to teach a W version of his course, which in a major short of W offerings we need. It is numbered at the 2000 level to allow sophomores to enroll, although the demand from juniors and seniors will likely be high enough that there will be few seats left for lower classmen. This course does not change our staffing and has no effect on other departments or regional campuses.	
38. SYLLABUS: Online URL: (https://web2.uconn.edu/senateform/request/course_uploads/mas07010-1321041550-POLS 2607W Abbreviated syllabus.docx)	
39. Course Information: ALL General Education courses, including W and Q courses,	

MUST answer this question

a. Course Objectives: This course focuses on the history, structure, role and scope of political parties in the United States. Students will learn what parties are and the various roles they play in American politics. They will also discuss whether reforms to the party system should be made and whether the current party system meets the ideals espoused in democratic theory.

b. Course Requirements: There is a cumulative final exam that will be taken in class and consistent of short answers and essays. Students are also graded on several writing assignments, including a weekly journal (which is not revised and does not constitute part of the W requirements), a short (3-5 page) paper describing one of roles parties play, a book review, and a 15-page term paper. In the process of writing the paper students will prepare a topic proposal, an outline, and a bibliography before producing the first draft. The final draft will be submitted after receiving feedback from peer review and the instructor and making revisions. The short paper and book review will also be revised following instructor comments. Students who do not pass the research paper will not pass the class.

Major themes: What is a party? What roles should parties play? The history of political parties in the United States. Party organization. The role of activists and donors. Why are there no major third parties.

40. Goals of General Education: All Courses Proposed for a Gen Ed Content Area MUST answer this question

41. Content Area and/or Competency Criteria: ALL General Education courses, including W and Q courses, MUST answer this question.: Specific Criteria

- a. **Arts and Humanities:**
- b. **Social Sciences:**
- c. **Science and Technology:**
 - i. **Laboratory:**
- d. **Diversity and Multiculturalism:**
 - 43. **International:**
- e. **Q course:**
- f. **W course:**

The papers and book report allow the students to explore more in depth the historical themes and theories discussed in the reading. Papers are graded on content and quality, and written elements comprise 70 percent of the overall grade. Students who do not pass the writing component (and in particular the term paper) will not pass the class.

The course will teach writing and research skills, using a text on writing term papers in political science as the basis of classroom instruction on the research process and then both guided peer feedback and instructor feedback on required first drafts. Students are expected to revise their drafts before final submission and grading.

42. RESOURCES:

Does the department/school/program currently have resources to offer the course as proposed
YES

If NO, please explain why and what resources are required to offer the course.

43. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

ADMIN COMMENT:

Senate approved W 2.27.2012 // GEOCWapp_120511AP. WSubcommApp_113011AP.
NewWofexistingnon-Wnon-genedcrse_111411AP.

Sample Syllabus (abbreviated)
Political Science 2607W—American Political Parties

Overview

This course focuses on the history, structure, role and scope of political parties in the United States. As we proceed we will raise and try to answer the following questions:

1. What *is* a political party?
2. What *kind* of parties does the United States have? What kind *should* we have?
3. What special role do parties play in our Constitutional system?
4. How has our party system changed over time?
5. Do parties play a *positive* or a *negative* role in American governance?
6. Should our system be reformed? If so, how?

Requirements

(NOTE: Students must pass the “W” component of the course in order to pass the course, and the “W” component constitutes a majority of the course grade. “W” assignments are noted with an asterisk)*

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|--|--------------------|
| 1. Weekly journal | 10% of final grade |
| 2. Short paper, analyzing a theoretical concept relating to parties* | 20% of final grade |
| 3. Book review* | 10% of final grade |
| A critique of a relevant book of your choice. | |
| 4. 15-page term paper* | 40% of final grade |
| Students are required to prepare a topic proposal, an outline, a bibliography, and first draft. Students will receive instructor and peer suggestions and criticisms on this draft and will then rewrite and submit a revised (final) paper based on those suggestions and criticisms. Students may also present their findings to the class at the end of the semester. | |
| 5. Final exam | 20% of final grade |

Sample Readings

- Lisa A. Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure and Methods*, 2nd edition. Washington: CQ Press.
- Marjorie Randon Hershey, *Party Politics in America*, 14th edition. New York: Longman, 2011.
- A. James Reichley, *The Life of the Parties*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.
- Randall E. Adkins, ed., *The Evolution of Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. Washington: CQ Press, 2008.

Course Topics

Introduction; review of syllabus and assignments

What *is* a political party?

What *should* a political party be?

Parties and the American Constitution

The evolution of the American party system: initial stages

Seeds—and theories—of party dissolution

Parties in the Civil War era

Party politics as tribal combat: Parties in the Gilded Age

The System of 1896: Business, labor, and farmers

The Progressives and the anti-party movement

“The Politics of Upheaval”: the 1928/32/36 realignment (1)

“The Politics of Upheaval” (2)

The New Deal coalition in the postwar years

The 1960s and beyond: realignment, dealignment, or what? The early conservative movement

The 1960s and beyond: The “new politics” and the left

Reagan, Bush (I) and Clinton

Bush (II) and the 51% strategy

Obama: The Democratic triumph; the conservative resurgence

Party organization

The party in the electorate: activists and others

The nominating process

Campaign dynamics and strategies

Money and politics

The “party in government”: the Presidency

The “party in government”: Congress

Third parties in American politics

Political parties in Connecticut