POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

# THE FUTURE OF PARTIES & INTEREST GROUPS

Semiatin chapters 7 (Renner) and 8 (Kasniunas and Rozell)

Monday, December 3

7.1/8.1 What topics or points in each chapter did you find most interesting or compelling, and why?

7.2 “In the future, the power of the GOP’s most conservative wing may continue to be a serious obstacle to the pragmatists’ attempts to appeal to an increasingly diverse electorate” (105). In light of this quote, ponder what lessons Republicans may draw from the 2012 elections – should the party do more to find better candidates to promote their conservative ideas, or are the conservative ideas an obstacle to the party’s electoral chances (especially in presidential elections)? This chapter’s musings on the future of Texas elections may be relevant here.

7.3/8.2 The Tea Party – where did it come from, what are its core beliefs, what effects did it have in 2010, and what can be said about its effects on the 2012 elections? Does the Tea Party have a future in the Republican Party?

8.3 Are we headed from candidate-centered politics (and elections) to group-centered politics (and elections), as the chapter 8 authors suggest (pp. 133-end)? Why do they believe this is a likely shift, and what difference would it make in elections?

X. Add your question here….

**Monday: chapters 9 (Graf and Mayer on campaign press coverage) and 10 (Francia, Joe, and Wilcox on campaign finance)**