POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

**PARTIES IN GOVERNMENT: LEGISLATURES**

Hershey chapter 13

Wednesday, November 14

**Chapter 13 terms**: party caucuses/conferences in Congress; differences in leadership positions between House, Senate; why House members revolted against Speaker Joe Cannon, results of the revolt; seniority rule; policy leadership in the House, 1970s and 1980s; Newt Gingrich, Gingrich Revolution, new powers of Speaker and new rules implemented by new Republican majority; why Gingrich tumbled from power; changes in House rules under Tom DeLay; why gridlock occurred under Democrats/Nancy Pelosi and more openness under Republicans/John Boehner; conditional party government; why party leadership is harder to carry out in the U.S. Senate; uses of party caucuses in state legislatures; incentives and punishments available to congressional party leaders; weaknesses of party penalties; cartel theory and agenda control; party vote/voting, party unity scores/party support; why party polarization has reached an all-time high in recent years; conservative coalition; conditions under which parties are most unified; specific pressures on legislators from marginal districts; Blue Dog Coalition, Tuesday Group; factors that affect strength of legislative parties: party polarization and cohesion, greater interparty competition, no competing centers of power, needed resources, legislative professionalism, styles of individual leaders

13.1. In an electoral system where candidates by and large control their own electoral destinies, winning and losing are only somewhat dependent on what the party does or does not do to help its candidates. With that in mind,

13.1a. How do party leaders in Congress control their members?

13.1b. Under what circumstances would members choose NOT to vote as their party leaders want them to?

13.2. Historically, parties within state legislatures were thought to exert more control over their members compared with the national party leadership in the Congress. Why would this have been the case?

13.3 What differences in leadership style and use of incentives/punishments might be expected in the new Congress, just elected in November 2012 and slated to be seated in January, 2013? What factors might account for any changes you foresee in the new Congress (consider House AND Senate)?

x. Ask your question here!