POL 215, POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

**FIRST EXAM STUDY GUIDE**

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**: The exam is scheduled for **Monday, October 1**. The exam is designed to take a little less than one hour to complete, but to give everyone a little more time, **we will begin the exam at 10:15 am and end promptly at 11:25 am**. Blue books will be provided. Cheating in any form will result in a grade of 0 for anyone involved. Please write legibly in pen (not red).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Anyone who requires a specific accommodation for taking this exam should talk to me about this as soon as possible.

**READINGS COVERED**: material from start of course through **September 28**:

* Hershey chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12
* Wayne chapters 1, 2, 3
* Nelson chapter 8 (Currinder)
* additional reading on third parties (September 10) and campaign finance (September 21)

**SCORING**

Part I - 11 multiple choice questions, 2 points each = 22 points

Part II - 6 answers (choice of 10), 8 points each = 48 points

Part III - 1 essay (choice of 3) = 30 points

**TOTAL = 100 points**

**PARTS I AND II**: The multiple choice and paragraph identification sections will cover concepts and terms listed below. **No other concepts/terms besides those on the list below will be covered in the first two sections of the exam.**

Part I is multiple choice - choose wisely (there is only one right answer for each).

In Part II, the paragraph ID section, you should **a) define or explain the concept/term, and b) discuss its significance for political parties and elections**. Answers will be graded at roughly 6 points for the definition/explanation and roughly 2 points for significance. Choose **only 6 items to answer**; if you answer more than 6, only the first 6 will be graded.

**Hershey chapter 1 terms**

concept of parties as intermediaries (p. 2)

definition of political parties

the three interacting parts of American political parties: party organization, party in government, party in the electorate

what parties do, how parties differ from other political organizations

why political parties developed in the early United States

Federalist Party

Democratic-Republican Party

Whig Party

how and why the national party system emerged around 1832

why parties had a “golden age”

why a reform era came after the “golden age”

the core differences between the two major parties today

how parties are shaped by the environment of the American political system

**Hershey chapter 2 terms**

limits on party competitiveness in the states

Duverger’s Law

Single-member district

Plurality election

why the U.S. has a two-party system and not more than 2 major parties on a regular basis

minor parties – what is distinctive about them, what difference do they make

rise of independent (third) candidates

**Terms from the third parties reading (September 10)**

what third parties do – policy innovations, help to cause realignments, link people to government, outlet for political discontent

barriers to third parties – constitutional, ballot access laws, campaign finance laws, lack of campaign resources and media coverage, candidate quality and lack of name recognition, negative attitudes toward third parties

anti-third party political strategies: cooptation of issues, delegitimizing tactics

outcomes of Perot’s agenda items

campaigns of Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader

Reform Party

dynamic theory of William Riker, and its relationship to Perot

“two majorities” thesis and its relationship to Perot

conceptions of “success” for Perot and his political movement

**Hershey chapter 3 terms**

Definition of strong party

levels of party organization within the state and what each level does

why local and state parties have become more active and stronger organizations since the 1970s

traditional weaknesses of state parties

state party fundraising activities

campaign services provided by state party organizations

why the South is a special case

**Hershey chapter 4 terms**

national committee and its functions

“Hill committees” and their functions

Democratic and Republican Governors’ Associations

the Republican “service path” versus the Democratic procedural reform path

changes in party strategies due to campaign finance reform

how the parties targeted their financial contributions in 2008, 2010, and likely will in 2012

impact of stronger national party organizations on candidate campaigns, and on state and local party organizations

50-state strategy

**Hershey chapter 5 terms**

the three types of incentives (material, solidary, purposive) and what the political parties have to offer activists within each type

professionals versus amateur activists, key differences

how parties recruit, factors that make people want to become active

characteristics of party activists that make them different from non-activists

**Hershey chapter 6 terms**

measurement of party identification

factors influencing party identification

New Deal coalition

straight-ticket voting, split-ticket voting

party voting, trends over time

short term forces

retrospective evaluations

myth of the independent

attitudinal and behavioral independents

**Hershey chapter 7 terms**

party realignment

party systems, when and which parties dominated during each (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th)

New Deal Coalition components

key factors that organize party coalitions: SES, region, age, race, religion and religiosity, ethnicity, gender, issues

evidence for polarization of party coalitions today

maintaining elections

deviating elections

dealignment

summary of party coalition changes (Table 7.4, p. 143)

evidence for and against a realignment in the last 50 years

secular change

### Hershey chapter 12 terms/ Wayne chapter 2 terms/Nelson chapter 8 terms

Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) of 1971, 1974

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

Buckley v. Valeo (1976)

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (aka McCain-Feingold)

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)

McConnell v. Federal Election Commission (2003)

hard money

political action committee (PAC)

matching funds

public funds

independent expenditures

soft money

527 political committees

501(c)(3) groups and 501(c)(4) groups, why these group types became more important in 2008

Super PACs

important characteristics of Obama’s donor base in 2008

campaign finance problems faced by Hillary Clinton during 2008 nomination battle

**Terms from** [**Bai article on 2012 campaign finance**](https://homepages.gac.edu/~cgilbert/p215/s21extra.pdf) **(September 21)**

Key changes to campaign finance after Citizens United ruling (p. 2 of article especially)

Why the Citizens United ruling was more incremental than transformational

### Wayne chapter 1 terms

Electoral College & why it was created

partisan congressional caucuses

why national nominating conventions arose to guide presidential selection

significance of 1912 election procedures

why primaries became so frequent after 1968

12th Amendment

elections with disputed outcomes (1800, 1824, 1876, 2000) & the nature of each dispute

specific concerns raised in counting the 2000 Florida vote

*Bush v. Gore*

built-in biases of the Electoral College

### Wayne chapter 3 terms

**See also:** [**chart of voting behavior models**](http://homepages.gac.edu/~cgilbert/p215/votechart.pdf) **(Sept. 24 handout), Chris’s September 24** [**powerpoint slides**](http://homepages.gac.edu/~cgilbert/p215/votebehav.ppt) **on voting behavior models**

problems with measuring voter turnout

23rd Amendment

24th Amendment

26th Amendment

Voting Rights Act

legal constraints on turnout

motor-voter law

psychological barriers to voting

education and voter turnout

competitiveness and voter turnout

results of Republican efforts to boost voter turnout in recent elections

key explanatory factors in *The American Voter* model of voting behavior

importance of partisanship/party identification (**these terms are interchangeable**), candidate views and issue positions

how V.O. Key refines theories of voting behavior

Fiorina, retrospective evaluations

why partisanship weakens from late 1960s to mid 1980s

why partisanship strengthens again from mid 1980s to today

Fiorina school versus Polarization School

social influences on voting behavior, role of intermediaries and personal contacts (Columbia school of voting behavior)

New Deal Realignment and structure of the Democratic Party coalition

party coalition changes since the 1950s, particularly changes/realignments from 1980 to today

**PART III (ESSAY)**

You will write one essay, from a selection of three questions. The questions will be based on the themes given below, and will be more specifically focused than these themes. My ideas for framing the specific essay questions also arise from class discussion question handouts and discussions. Focusing your studying on the handouts and themes discussed in class will assist you in answering the essay question.

Essay answers should be roughly 4-5 paragraphs (about 2 blue book pages). Writing quality is not an important factor, but these factors are important:

- correct information (be accurate, know your facts)

- relevant information (answer the question asked, not some variation of your choosing)

- evidence or examples to support your answer (show what you’ve learned and how it pertains)

- a logical structure (have a theme or thesis, organize the essay coherently)

### THEMES FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

Be prepared to discuss the major ways in which political parties have changed their activities due to recent changes in U.S. politics. The reasons why parties have shifted to the newer model are also important to consider.

Be prepared to discuss the conditions under which third parties/candidates are likely to be more successful, and to show how specific third parties/candidates fit these conditions. An essay question based on this theme is not likely to specify the third parties/candidates to be discussed; providing relevant examples will be up to you.

Candidates for Congress (House or Senate) have numerous ways to fund their campaigns. Be prepared to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the most important sources of campaign funding, from the candidate’s point of view. Essays on this topic should demonstrate a firm grasp of campaign finance regulations.

Organized groups interested in influencing the outcome of congressional or presidential elections have numerous ways to raise and spend money toward this purpose. Be prepared to assess the ways in which organized groups can do this, and how their efforts could help or hurt the candidate they wish to help. Essays on this topic should demonstrate a firm grasp of campaign finance regulations.

Be prepared to discuss trends in voter support for either or both major political parties since the 1960s. This essay question could focus on changing patterns of party identification, or focus on the characteristics of voters who support Democrats or Republicans; either way, the question’s emphasis will be on changes over time.

Be prepared to discuss different models of voting behavior, based on the discussions in Wayne chapter 3 and Hershey chapters 6 and 7. This essay question, if asked, would almost certainly require comparisons and contrasts between models.