G53.3501.001: Parties and Partisanship

The goal of this course is to provide a complete overview of the role of political parties in structuring political behavior by reading both institutionalist literature on political parties and behavioralist literature on partisanship and partisan identification. This course should be of interest to students planning on writing a dissertation on any topic related to political parties and partisanship.

Requirements

The course meets once a week for two hours. Grading is based on class participation (25%), response papers during the semester (25%) and a term paper (50%). Please note that all page lengths refer to double-spaced pages with 1 inch margins.

Class Participation: This is a graduate seminar, and all students will be expected to have done the required reading before each week’s seminar and contribute to the class discussion.

Response Papers: For two (2) weeks, students will be required to write a 5 page paper identifying the most important themes in that week’s readings. For four (4) of the other weeks, students will be required to write a 2 page response paper addressing one of the readings. The topic of this paper is entirely up to the student: it could focus on a particularly compelling argument, raise points about the research design of an article, address issues related to the data analysis, etc.

Additionally, every student that is writing a weekly paper (either long or short) is also required to submit 3 potential discussion questions for the seminar along with their paper. Students not writing a paper that week are welcome to submit discussion questions as well, but are not required to do so. We will assign the weeks that each student will be required to write papers at the first session of this course.

All response papers must be submitted by email to Professor Tucker no later than 7:00 PM the night before class.

Term Paper: Each student is required to write a term paper for this course. There are three options for doing so:

1) Literature Review: Literature reviews are designed to provide insight into a given body of work. They do not merely summarize what has been written, but in addition point out themes, major findings, controversies, and directions for future research. Most published articles contain short literature reviews; most dissertations contain longer literature reviews. Literature reviews
will be focused on a theme, and can also have a regional dimension if desired (e.g., work on public opinion formation in Africa). Literature reviews are particularly appropriate for students that have some idea about the general topic on which they are hoping to write their QP and/or dissertation, but not enough familiarity with the literature to have identified a specific topic yet OR for students who have a very specific topic in mind, but little knowledge about the related literature. Literature reviews will be between 18-20 pages.

2) **Research Proposal**: A research proposal will look like an empirical journal article, only without the actual analysis. Thus it will include a statement of a research question or puzzle, a review of the literature related to the topic, theoretical arguments that can be used to provide an answer to the question, hypotheses drawn from these theories that can be tested empirically, and a description of what empirical evidence and methods will be used to test these hypotheses (including how the hypotheses could be falsified); it can of course also contain some initial analysis of the data. Research proposals are particularly appropriate for students who have a good idea of a particular question that they would like to explore in greater detail in the future, either in another seminar, for their QP, or dissertation and/or are would like to submit a single-authored publication to a journal in the near future. Writing a research proposal give you a chance to really explore the important questions in writing a paper (a good question, relationship to the literature, research design, appropriate and available data) without the pressure of also having to complete the data analysis. Research proposals will be between 18-20 pages.

3) **Research Paper**: Research papers are to be written with the goal of submitting the paper to a journal for publication after the course is completed. They will have all of the components of the research proposal, but will also complete the empirical analysis and contain a discussion of the implications of the findings. Research papers for this class are ONLY to be written by a collaboration of two co-authors, and the paper will be between 30-35 pages. Research papers are appropriate for people with a strong desire to produce a publishable piece of work by the end of the semester and who can come up with a very clear and specific idea of what they would like to write about within the first month of the course. Both authors will receive the same grade for the paper.

All term papers have the following deadlines:
tba: 1-2 paragraph description of the paper, including chosen option
tba: Detailed outline of the paper; you should be able to write a draft on the basis of this outline
tba: All papers due by 3:00 PM.

No incompletes are permitted on term papers for this class except in the case of extremely extenuating circumstances.

*Oral Presentation of Term Paper*: This will take place the last two weeks of the course. The idea here is to practice giving a conference presentation on your own research. So these will be 10-15 minute talks, preferably using a power point display. They will also be an opportunity for you to receive feedback on your research topic from your classmates.
Office Hours

Professor Tucker will hold office hours on TBA. If you need to schedule a time to meet outside of the scheduled office hours, please email Professor Tucker directly.

Books for Purchase

I recommend purchasing the following books (they have been made available at the NYU Bookstore), as we will either the whole book or significant portions of the book:


Ware, Alan. 1996. *Political parties and party systems*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press., Ch. 1-5 (p.17-183)


You are welcome to purchase any of the other books from Amazon.com. However, all of the other books from which readings are assigned will be available in my office. What I would recommend is that you take turns scanning the relevant readings and then emailing them to your classmates by week, although this is of course up to you. But do not recall these books from the library without checking with me first to see if I have them.

Please note that I am not preparing a course pack, as my assumption is that you can download journal articles from various electronic sources.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1, Tuesday Sept. 4 : Introduction and Course Overview
Week 2, Sept 11: Historical Origins of Political Parties


Week 3, Sept 18: Theories of the Functions of Parties


Recommended:


Week 4, Sept 25: Classifying Political Parties and Party Systems

Mair, Peter, ed. *The West European Party System*, Oxford Press 1990: Ch. 2-5 (p. 31-60) and 20-24 (285-350)

Ware, Alan. 1996. *Political parties and party systems*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press., Ch. 1-5 (p.17-183)

Week 5, Oct 2: Explaining Party Systems and Party System Change

Ware, Alan. 1996. Political parties and party systems. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press., Ch. 6-7 (p.184-244)

Mair, Peter, ed. The West European Party System, Oxford Press 1990: Ch. 7-9 (75 – 138), 12 (185-194) 19 (266-284) [Note: we will have already read Ch.9 in Week 2]


Recall as well Downs and Osborne readings from Week 3

Recommended:


Week 6, Oct 9: Endogenous Party Formation


Week 7, Oct 16: Party ID: Michigan School, Political Psychology, and Early Classics


Week 8, Oct 23: Party ID: The Rational Revisionists


Week 9, Oct 30: Party ID: Social Identity Theory (Partisan Hearts and Minds)


**Week 10, Nov. 6: Cross-National Studies of Partisan Identification**


Brader, Ted, and Joshua A. Tucker “Of Time and Partisan Stability Revisited”, unpublished manuscript, Ann Arbor, MI.


**Week 11, Nov. 13: Party ID in New Democracies**


Week 12, Nov 20: Experimental Research in Party ID


Week 13, Nov. 27 Student Presentations

Week 14: Dec. 3, Student Presentations