

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-19

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: POLS2300
Course Title: Political Parties
Prerequisite: POLS1000 strongly recommended
Catalog Description: Comprehensive review of party politics and elections in the United States. Emphasis on the historical development of the American party system; political party organization in America; voting and elections and the activity of parties in government.
Credit hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Provide a general overview on the historical development and culture of political parties.
- B. Provide a broad overview of the Analyze the electoral process, the party platforms and issue agendas.
- C. Increase student understanding of group coalitions and special interests.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Analyze the electoral process and party system relationship
 - 2. Develop their ability to critically analyze the party nomination and recruitment of candidate process.
 - 3. Hone skills that can be used outside of political science-- such as library research, the use of comparative methodologies, working with Internet to find data and presentation skills.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.
 - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
 - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.
 - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
 - Outcome: Acquire and integrate knowledge and construct relationships across disciplines.
 - 2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
 - Outcome: Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of U.S. history and culture as it relates to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and culture.
 - Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.
 - Outcome: Function effectively in multicultural settings.
 - Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.
 - Outcome: Identify and evaluate different theoretical or philosophical perspectives and their relevance to ethical decision-making.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Political Parties: Definitions and Functions.
- B. Comparison of Different Party Systems.
- C. American Political Party System Development.
- D. Third Parties in American Politics.
- E. Party Support in the American Electorate.
- F. Party Identification: Historical Trends.
- G. Party Organizations: National, State, Local Levels.
- H. Party Activists: Roles and Goals.
- I. Recruitment of Party Candidates.
- J. The Presidential Nomination Process.
- K. American Political Campaigns.
- L. The American Electoral System.
- M. Campaign Finance: Then and Now.
- N. The Divided Government Dilemma.
- O. Reforms to Our Party System: Adaptation and Future Challenges.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 - 1. Eldersveld, S.J. and Walton, H. (2000). *Political Parties in American Society*. (2nd Edition). Wadsworth Publishing. [ISBN: 0312226888].
- B. Other Resources: Study guide and primary documents supplied with textbook.
- C. Outside Reading/Research Required: A paper based on primary and other documents supplied by the instructor.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Lectures and class discussion
 - 2. Small group discussion
 - 3. Student presentations
 - 4. Multimedia presentations

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Attendance/class participation 20.0%
 - 2. Term Paper 20.0%
 - 3. Examination #1 20.0%
 - 4. Examination #2 20.0%
 - 5. Oral Presentation and outline/Bibliography 20.0%
- B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Attendance
- B. Textbook reading and discussion
- C. Written assignment(s)
- D. Class Presentation
- E. Exam(s)