Course Description: In this seminar, you will have a detailed look at the political institution at the center of representative democracy - the political party. What are the roles and functions of the political party? How are parties different from other political organizations? What are the main causes for the formation of parties? Why is party formation natural in some cases but difficult in others? Based on these central questions, you will examine the party development as well as the role of parties in shaping public policy in countries around the world. This course will examine issues related to the socioeconomic as well as institutional determinants in the organization of parties, the positioning over issues and policies advocated by parties, as well as the mutual adaptation between the institutional and ideological factors. In this course you will also review the increasing changes in various party systems, as well as the long-term implication of these changes for the continuing legitimacy and functioning of political parties.
Pre-Requisites: None

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to understand the basic concepts and theories introduced in this course
- Be able to apply these theories in the appropriate empirical context

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.
Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):
http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you are using Turnitin in your course:
Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.

Texts:
Are required readings are available in PDF on LEARN.
Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Participation and Discussion (35%)
Because this course is a seminar, active participation in class discussion is required. For each session, you need to take the initiative in actively contributing to the discussions in order to receive the 35% grades for participation.

Presentation (15%)
Once during the semester you will present some of the weekly readings to the class. At the beginning of the semester, I will assign each student to specific readings for presentation. The presentation should include two elements.

(1) You should identify the main theoretical arguments of the reading, and also identify the main empirical evidence the reading provided in support of the theoretical arguments.

(2) You should provide the class with some material that “supplements” the assigned reading. The supplementary material can take any form you feel effective, such as tables, figures, photos, video clips, maps, so long as the material can help illustrate the issues raised in the readings. Because the supplementary material is supposed to be consumed in class within one or two minutes, it is important to keep it simple and brief (for example, you should not use a dense and long-winded article as supplementary material).

The presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes.

Term Paper (50%)
For this assignment, you will write a term paper on a topic related to political parties. You can choose any topic that you are interested in (such as voter turnout, party ideology, party’s policy positions, anti-immigrant parties, the role of the economy in elections, micro-parties, and so on). The paper must be theoretically motivated. In other words, the paper should not be a mere historical description of a country, time period, or event. Instead, it must rely on theoretical arguments in its investigation of party politics.

You should determine research topic for your paper by January 28. On January 28, you should hand in a one-paragraph statement about what you intend to investigate. This will give me time to assess the feasibility of the topic on an individual basis for each student.

On February 25 you should hand in a one-page report of the progress in your research for the term paper. The report should include the following elements:

(1). the main research question to be answered
(2). the theory you propose to answer the research question
(3). how your theory relates to existing literature on this topic
(4). what **empirical evidence** you intend to use in illustrating the theory
For your empirical research, you should rely mainly on **academic** sources, which are defined to include academic books, journal articles, and academic data sites (such as OECD or the World Bank), and to **exclude** popular online reference sites (such as Wikipedia). I will also accept citations from reputable newspapers (such as the New York Times or the Economist), but your empirical evidence should not rely solely on newspaper articles.

I accept any commonly used citation style (such as APA or MLA), as long as the same citation style is used consistently throughout the text.

The length of the paper should be 12 pages maximum, double spaced, excluding bibliography or citation.

**Schedule:**

**January 7**  Introduction

**January 14**  Why Do People Turn Out to Vote?

**Meredith Rolfe.** 2012. *Voter Turnout: A Social Theory of Political Participation*. Chapter 2, 5

January 21  Parties and Ideologies


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January 28  Parties and Policies


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February 4  How Does the Economy Affect Parties?


Wouter van der Brug et al. 2007. *The Economy and the Vote: Economic Conditions and Elections in Fifteen Countries*. Chapter 1

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February 11  How Do Parties Affect the Economy?


February 25  Parties and Corruption


March 4  Brand and Populist Parties


March 11  Authoritarian Parties


March 18  
Parties in Developing Countries

Herbert Kitschelt et al. 2010. *Latin American Party Systems*. Chapter 1

Herbert Kitschelt et al. 1999. *Post-Communist Party Systems*. Chapter 1

March 25  
Evolution of Parties
