

**FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED
NEW COURSE or MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING COURSE**

Department/School: Political Science Date: 27 August 2012

Course No. or Level: 305 Title: (current) American Political Parties
(proposed) Political Parties and Organizations

Semester hours: 3 Clock hours: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: 0

Prerequisites: Political Science 101 or 103

Enrollment expectation: 25

Indicate any course for which this course is a (an)

Modification: Political Science 305
(proposed changes in course title and course description)

Substitute: n/a

Alternate: n/a

Name of person preparing course description: Richard A. Almeida

Department Chairperson's/Dean's Signature _____

Provost's Signature _____

Date of Implementation _____

Date of School/Department approval _____

Catalog description:

Old: (Prerequisite 101 or 103) Description and analytical examination of the nature and function of political parties in the United States, with emphasis on the nominating process, elections, and political leadership.

New: (Prerequisite 101 or 103) Description and analysis of the role and function of political organizations in the United States, including political parties, lobbying groups, and political action committees. The impacts of these organizations on American political life is of particular interest.

Teaching method planned: lecture

Textbook and/or materials planned: See attached syllabus

Course Content: This is a proposal to change the title and catalog description of Political Science 305.

Political Science 305 – Fall 2011
Political Parties and Organizations

Professor:—Dr. Richard Almeida **Office:** 139 Founders' Hall **Phone:** (843) 661-1631

Office hours: MWF 11-12am, MW 2-3pm, TuTh 10-11am, 1-2pm & by app't

Email: ralmeida@fmarion.edu

Required texts: Hetherington, Marc J. and William J. Keefe. 2010. Parties, Politics, and Public Policy

in America. 11th Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
Lowery, David and Holly Brasher. 2011. Organized Interests and American Government. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Blackboard: <http://blackboard9.fmarion.edu>

Course Description: Many Americans claim to feel that the government is not responsive to their wants and needs. Generally, they're correct. The size and scope of modern governments simply do not permit much attention to the specific preferences of individuals. Instead, two institutions have evolved which channel individual preferences and make those preferences known at all levels of government – political parties and interest groups. In this course, we will explore how and why these organizations form, what they do and how they do it, why they succeed and fail, and their impacts on the political system.

Class requirements: A total of **1000** possible points can be earned throughout the semester. These points are distributed as follows: **PARTICIPATION – 200 points.** I mention participation first because it is the most important component. I expect that you will come to class having read the assigned material, as it serves as the foundation upon which lectures are built. I also expect that you will come to class having something intelligent to say. **SHORT PAPERS – 400 points.** Each student will complete **2** short (5-7 page) papers, each worth **200** points toward the student's final grade. Late written work will have **10%** deducted from the final grade for each *calendar* day the assignment is late, which means that weekends count as *two* days. **MIDTERM EXAM – 200 points.** Each student will take a midterm exam, comprised of in-class and take-home elements. **FINAL EXAM – 200 points.** Each student will take a final exam during the regularly-scheduled final examination period.

Make-up policy: Given the nature of this course, make-up work is generally not an option. Of course, bad things happen to good people – family emergencies occur, children fall ill, significant others dump us, etc., and I try to be sensitive to that. If you find yourself in a hardship situation, please speak to me privately. Decisions regarding missed work will be made on a case-by-case basis, **solely at the discretion of your professor.** If you are participating in university-sponsored extracurricular activities that might warrant missing classes, please inform me during the *first two weeks* of the semester.

Academic dishonesty: Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest, regardless of whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty has serious

consequences, ranging from probation to expulsion from the university, and is vigorously investigated by your instructor. Anyone caught in academically dishonest behavior will, *at minimum*, receive zero points for the exam or paper in question, and will be reported to the university on academic dishonesty charges. Please see me if you have any questions about plagiarism, paraphrasing, or quoting.

Special needs: Students with documented special needs who require academic accommodations must notify me as soon as possible. Please see me privately after class within the first two weeks of classes. You must be registered with the Counseling & Testing Center, McLeod Building (673-9707), especially if you are requesting any kind of class or testing accommodations. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.

Course Outline: I would like the pace of the class to be guided, in large part, by the class itself, so there are no specific dates to discuss specific topics. I will make it known when we are moving from one topic to another, it is your responsibility to have read the assigned material prior to the appropriate class meeting. Occasionally, readings from sources other than the text will be assigned. These will be made available to you via the web, on reserve at Rogers Library, or through in-class handouts. Often, outside readings will be the foundation for the short writing assignments, and therefore should be taken seriously.

I.	Introduction p. xv-17	<u>Parties</u> , preface & ch. 1
II.	The US Party System	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 2
III.	Parties as Organizations	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 1 p. 18-32
IV.	Parties and Individuals	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 6
V.	Parties and Elections I: Candidate Selection	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 3
VI.	Parties and Elections II: Campaigns 119	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 4, p. 109-119
VII.	Parties and Public Policy – Congress	<u>Parties</u> , ch. 5
VIII.	Interest Groups: the Problem of “Factions” 1	<u>Interests</u> , preface & ch. 1
IX.	Group Formation and Maintenance	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 2
X.	The Evolutionary Biology of Interest Groups	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 3
XI.	Lobbying I – Lobbying “the Public”	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 4
XII.	Lobbying II – Lobbying Legislatures	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 5
XIII.	Lobbying III – Lobbying the Executive	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 6
XIV.	Conclusions	<u>Interests</u> , ch. 8