

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course: POLS 140-01: American Political Parties
Semester: Fall 2020
CRN: 90219
Location: Virtual
Time: 2:10-3:00PM
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Keneshia Grant, Ph.D.
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OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course, each student should have an in-depth understanding of and ability to discuss the following:

- Parties and Party Systems
- The Political Party as an Organization
- The Political Party in the Electorate
- Parties, Nominations, and Elections
- The Party in Government

COURSE REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

Majorie Randon Hershey, Party Politics in America 17th Edition. Taylor & Francis. Via [Amazon](#) | Via [Barnes & Noble](#)

COURSE OUTLINE

This course organized into five (5) thematic modules.

Parties and Party Systems	Module 1
The Political Party as an Organization	Module 2
The Political Party in the Electorate	Module 3
Parties, Nominations, and Elections	Module 4
The Party in Government	Module 5

COURSE PREREQUISITE

The successful student will have some introductory knowledge of American Government, although POS 010-National Government of the United States is not required as a pre-requisite for this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS

I. BlackBoard Introduction & Syllabus Quiz—5 points

- A. Each student is required to complete a BlackBoard Quiz that will demonstrate that they:
1. Logged into BlackBoard
 2. Read the course syllabus

II. Course Discussion Board—10 points

- A. During the semester, students will be required to participate in course discussion using the course discussion board in BlackBoard. The course discussions may cover textbook materials, additional readings, or current events. Students are required to participate in **all** course discussions **in a timely fashion**. The total sum of discussion board entries will be worth ten (10) points. The ten points will be divided among the total number of discussions. For example, if we end up with ten discussions then each discussion will be worth one point. If we end up with twenty discussions, then each discussion will be worth .5 point.

III. Quizzes- Worth 60 Points

Each module includes quizzes that covers the contents of the textbook chapter and information from the additional reading. Reading the course material is imperative to doing well on the quizzes.

The course includes fourteen (14) quizzes. However, students are only required to complete ten (10) quizzes. Each quiz will be worth six (6) points.

IV. Book Review- Worth 25 Points

- A. Students are required to review one of the following books. Book reviews should be between 800 and 1000 words. Book reviews must both summarize the contents of the book and provide critical analysis of the book. **Book reviews are due no later than Friday, November 6, 2020.**
1. Ali, O. H. (2008). In the Balance of Power: Independent Black Politics and Third-party Movements in the United States. Ohio University Press.
 2. Fautroy, M. K. (2007). Republicans and the Black vote. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

3. Grant, K. N. (2020). *The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: Black Voters and the Realignment of American Politics in the 20th Century*. Temple University Press.
4. Philpot, T. (2009). *Race, Republicans, and the Return of the Party of Lincoln*. University of Michigan Press.
5. Walton, H. (1972). *Black Political Parties: An Historical and Political Analysis*. Free Pr.
6. White, I. K., & Laird, C. N. (2020). *Steadfast Democrats: How Social Forces Shape Black Political Behavior (Vol. 19)*. Princeton University Press.

GRADING: THE GRADING SCALE FOR THIS COURSE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A	100-90 pts
B	89-80 pts
C	79-70 pts
D	69-60 pts
F	59 or less pts

IMPORTANT COURSE DATES

(subject to change, based on class progress):

September 7	Labor Day University is closed
September 9	Accommodations Letter Due (if applicable)
October 9	Midterm Grades Submitted
November 7	Book Review Due
November 11	Veteran's Day University is closed
November 13	Couse withdrawal date

COURSE MODULES AND CONTENT

Module One	Parties and Party Systems
Module Two	The Political Party as an Organization
Module Three	The Political Party in the Electorate
Module Four	Parties, Nominations, and Elections
Module Five	The Party in Government

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Students will need access to a computer, high-speed internet, and an internet browser to be successful in this course.
- Students will need Microsoft software for written assignments
 - I will only accept written assignments in MS Word or Adobe pdf.
 - I will not accept Google documents.
 - Please download the MS Office Suite. [HU - Enterprise Technology Services \(ETS\)](#) provides software for Howard faculty, staff, and students through the online portal at <http://secure.howard.edu>.

- You may need adobe reader to read pdf documents posted in BlackBoard. You can download adobe reader for free here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIRED

1. Using the learning management system (BlackBoard)
2. Using email with attachments and sending calendar invitations
3. Creating and submitting files in MS Word or .pdf
4. Copying and pasting
5. Using presentation and graphics programs

COURSE AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Attendance/Participation- Students should be mindful to set aside time each week to complete the assigned coursework. Students should be present and on time for any scheduled class virtual meetings. It is in your best interest to complete the required reading and participate in the online classroom environment.

You are required to contribute to the class discussion by posting two quality responses to organized discussion questions each chapter/each module. You are expected to review responses by classmates and reply to their ideas in an insightful way. This type of class participation enables the learning process through your reflections, questions, linkages to applications, and explanations to others.

Current Events- To make the most of this class, I suggest that students remain abreast of current events. There are a variety of ways to accomplish this goal. I recommend engaging traditional sources like newspaper, television, radio, as well as podcasts.

"Writing Matters"- Writing is an essential tool for thinking and communicating in virtually every discipline and profession. Therefore, in this course I expect you to produce writing that is not only thoughtful and accurate, but also organized, clear, grammatical, and consistent with the conventions of the field. If your writing does not meet these standards, I may deduct points or ask you to revise. For assistance with your writing, go to the student section of the Writing across the Curriculum (WAC) website, <http://www.cetla.howard.edu/wac/students.aspx>.

Academic Integrity- Academic dishonesty is unnecessary. Further, the "Academic Code of Conduct" in the [H-Book](#) prohibits cheating, plagiarism, and copyright infringement. Penalties for violations range from a "0" for the assignment or exam to an "F" in the course or suspension. See CETLA's [Plagiarism](#) webpage for more information about plagiarism as well as ways to avoid it. Please note that I will check your work using Blackboard's *SafeAssign*—a plagiarism detector. Any assignment with more than 15% matching will be subject to an intense review, and possibly a zero (0) grade. If you follow the guidelines provided here, you will be successful in this course. Therefore, I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form.

Late/Missing work- I will not accept late work without an official excuse. If you think that you may have a problem submitting your work on time, be sure to contact me in advance. I will only administer make-up exams if the student provides a University-issued excuse. Students must provide official university excuses within one week of the absence. If you experience computer-related problems, you should request a note from a technical assistant or, if Blackboard is not working, immediately e-mail helpdesk@howard.edu and "cc" me at Keneshia.Grant@Howard.edu to document your problem.

Extra Credit- There is limited extra credit in this course. Therefore, if you earn a borderline course average (i.e., 59.5, 69.5, 79.5, 89.5), you will not automatically receive an additional fraction of a point to capture the higher grade.

Incomplete Grades and Withdrawals- A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only if you have fulfilled 75% of the course requirements prior to the Registrar's withdrawal deadline Friday, **November 8, 2020** and an emergency prevents you from completing the course. Your dean or advisor must document such an emergency. If you have not completed most of the coursework, I advise that you withdraw before the deadline. Otherwise, am required to enter the grade you have in the class. Please note that if you receive an incomplete grade, you can complete only the coursework you missed. Further, you must complete that work by the end of the following semester, in accordance with University policy.

Grievance of Grades- There are two ways to contest grades in this class. For assignments during the semester, I use a 24-hour cooling off period before discussing work. In other words, students are required to wait 24 hours from the time work is returned to them before we will have a conversation about the grade. Once we do talk about the grade: 1) the student must be prepared to discuss the entire work, and be willing to accept the grade that results from review of the entire work whether that grade is higher or lower than the original grade; 2) The student must have a copy of the assignment rubric, and come to the meeting prepared to discuss their work in terms of the rubric. The student must clearly demonstrate how their work matches the rubric's description of correct work. I will give two (2) points to students for emailing me with your name, and the subject line "I read the whole syllabus, even the boring bits." You must send this email no later than September 5, 2020.

For final grades: Students will have access to a running tally of their grades, so they know what to expect well before the end of the semester. I do not "bump up" grades for students, regardless of their circumstances. Political Science students are required to earn the grade of C or higher in this course. I do not give special consideration in the form of preferential grading to students because they are graduating and/or political science majors. If you believe that you have been graded unfairly, I encourage you to follow the grievance process available to you through the College of Arts & Sciences. You should begin by scheduling an appointment with the Undergraduate student advisor and

department chair, then working through the appropriate channels to reach a solution.

American Disabilities Act (ADA)- Howard University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students who need accommodations because of a disability should contact [Student Services](#) (202-238-2420) as soon as possible after admission to the University or at the beginning of each semester.

If you need a special accommodation required by the American Disabilities Act, please document and discuss your disability with me *during the first week of classes*. You are required to furnish a copy of your accommodations letter to me, either in person or via email, no later than three weeks into the course: **September 7, 2020**.

Center for Academic Excellence- The Center for Academic Excellence provides tutors to assist undergraduates with a variety of General Education subjects. The center also provides academic counselors and student success workshops to help you stay in school and excel.

Blackboard- You are expected to use Blackboard throughout this course. If you need help navigating Blackboard, see [Blackboard FAQ for Students](#). You are required to complete the scavenger hunt assignment in BlackBoard to familiarize yourself with BlackBoard and with our BlackBoard course.

COURSE CALENDAR | CONTENT AND SUGGESTED DUE DATES

August 24, 2020—Week #1

TOPICS:

- Syllabus
- BlackBoard
- What are Political Parties?

PREPARATION:

- Buy textbook
- Get familiar with BlackBoard
- Read
 - Chapter 1
 - Bawn, K., Cohen, M., Karol, D., Masket, S., Noel, H., & Zaller, J. (2012). A theory of political parties: Groups, policy demands and nominations in American politics. *Perspectives on Politics*, 571-597.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Syllabus and BlackBoard quiz
- Quiz #1

August 31, 2020—Week #2

TOPICS:

- The American Two Party System

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 2
 - Hirano, S., & Snyder Jr, J. M. (2007). The decline of third-party voting in the United States. *The Journal of Politics*, 69(1), 1-16.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #2
-

September 7, 2020—Week #3

Monday, September 7, 2020
Labor Day | University is closed

TOPICS:

- The State and Local Party Organizations

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 3
 - Trounstine, J., & Valdini, M. E. (2008). The context matters: The effects of single-member versus at-large districts on city council diversity. *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(3), 554-569.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #3
-

September 14, 2020—Week #4

TOPICS:

- The Parties National Organizations

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 4
 - The African-American Firebrand Who Heads the Gore Campaign. *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, Winter, 1999-2000, No. 26 (Winter, 1999-2000), pp. 20-21

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #4
-

September 21, 2020—Week #5

TOPICS:

- Party Activists

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 5
 - Clawson, R. A., & Clark, J. A. (2003). The attitudinal structure of African American women party activists: The impact of race, gender, and religion. *Political Research Quarterly*, 56(2), 211-221.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #5
-

September 28, 2020—Week #6

TOPICS:

- Party Identification

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 6
 - "The Contours of Black Political Thought," in Dawson, M. C. (2003). *Black visions: The roots of contemporary African-American political ideologies*. University of Chicago Press. pp. 1-43.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #6
-

October 5, 2020—Week #7

Midterm

TOPICS:

- Party Coalitions and Party Change

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 7
 - Grant, K. N. (2019). GREAT MIGRATION POLITICS: The Impact of The Great Migration on Democratic Presidential Election campaigns from 1948–1960. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 16(1), 37-61.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #7
-

October 12, 2020—Week #8

TOPICS:

- Parties and Voter Turnout

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 8
 - Philpot, T. S., Shaw, D. R., & McGowen, E. B. (2009). Winning the race: Black voter turnout in the 2008 presidential election. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 73(5), 995-1022.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #8
-

October 19, 2020—Week #9

TOPICS:

- How Parties Choose Candidates

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 9

- Marshall, T. (1957). The Rise and Collapse of the "White Democratic Primary". *The Journal of Negro Education*, 26(3), 249-254.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #9
-

October 26, 2020—Week #10

TOPICS:

- Choosing the Presidential Nominees

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 10
 - Walton, H., & Gray, C. V. (1975). Black Politics at the National Republican and Democratic Conventions, 1868-1972. *Phylon (1960-)*, 36(3), 269-278.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #10
-

November 2, 2020—Week #10

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Election Day | Vote! Vote! Vote!

TOPICS:

- The General Election

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 11

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #11
-

November 9, 2020—Week #11

Friday, November 11, 2020
Veteran's Day | University is closed

Friday, November 13, 2020

Last Day to Withdraw from a Fall 2020 course and/or from the University

<https://www2.howard.edu/withdrawal> (No refunds)

Deadline for prospective Fall 2020 Graduates to apply for graduation via BisonWeb

TOPICS:

- The Parties in Congress and State Legislatures

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 13

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #12
-

November 16, 2020—Week #12

TOPICS:

- The Parties in the Executive and Courts

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 14

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #13
-

November 23, 2020—Week #13

TOPICS:

- The Place of Parties in American Politics

PREPARATION:

- Read
 - Chapter 16

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quiz #14