

**AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS**

**Bluefield State College  
POSC 404—FALL 2018  
CRN: 12073  
Section: 001  
WEMDL**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class: TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
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Study of American politics with emphasis upon the role, organization, functions and processes of political parties and pressure groups. PR: POSC 200 or POSC 210.

Grading Policy: 20% for class attendance (10% for completing chapter quizzes + 10% for actual class attendance); 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for participation in the Soliya Connect Program; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements for the Soliya Connect Program and for your Research Paper.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: "A" = Excellent; "B" = Good; "C" = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of "C" or better is required in major courses); "D" = Poor (passing, except in major courses); "F" = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is "excluded" from grade point average. The second grade is "included" in the recalculation of the grade point average); and "I" = Incomplete.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

**ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]**

Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

**ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]**

Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

**ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]**

Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

**ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]**

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

**ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]**

Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

- PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.*
- PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.*
- PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.*
- PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.*
- PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.*
- PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.*

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 404, students should:

- CLO1: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;
- CLO2: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;
- CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;
- CLO4: understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living;

CLO5: be familiar with the constitutional history of the US experiment in self-government;  
 CLO6: understand the historical evolution of US politics, including struggles over rights and responsibilities;  
 CLO7: be familiar with the horrendous tragedies as well as the notable accomplishments of the US experiment in self-government in its efforts to balance the principles of liberty with order;  
 CLO8: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;  
 CLO9: understand the reasoning behind the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the US Constitution;  
 CLO10: understand the reasoning behind the idea of checks and balances in the US Constitution;  
 CLO11: understand the historical evolution of the political party system in the US and their role in the functioning of American democracy;  
 CLO12: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to American Political Parties and Pressure Groups.

**Teaching Procedures:** This course will be taught in the classroom along with quizzes posted online on the course Moodle page. Individual work is required, such as completing online chapter quizzes, attending your weekly Soliya discussion groups submitting a research paper, and completing the midterm and final exams.

**Interaction Plan:** This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, both in class and by utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

**Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware):** This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a commitment to purchase the required texts, keep up with the chapter readings, complete your in-class presentation, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and take the online **Chapter Quizzes**, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: [https://www.bluefieldstate.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/2016/10/academic\\_honesty\\_statement.pdf](https://www.bluefieldstate.edu/sites/default/files/page/attachments/2016/10/academic_honesty_statement.pdf). In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments may be submitted to [Turnitin](#) by the instructor for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance in class is mandatory. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day of class; failure to sign the attendance sheet—even if in attendance—will be counted as an absence. “When the number of clock hours of willful absences exceeds the number of semester hours of credit, the instructor will notify the Registrar that the student has exceeded the permissible number of absences and should be withdrawn from class.” Students with Excused Absences must submit to me a hard copy of the campus publication *The Bulletin* announcing your allowed absence in order to get credit for the day(s) of your absence. “It is the responsibility of the student to provide a proper explanation to the instructor for institutional and unavoidable absences. Failure to do so immediately upon return to class will automatically make the absence willful. The student should provide supporting documents for institutional and unavoidable absences. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student and at the acceptance of the instructor.” (*Bluefield State College Academic Catalog 2017-2018*, p. 50). As well, you are expected to follow the syllabus and accordingly be prepared for each day's class. This means that you must read the pre-assigned readings before class so that you will be prepared to discuss and debate in class the subject matter scheduled for that day and answer questions related to the issues being covered. Attendance in class will count for 10% of your total 20% Attendance grade.

\* Absence from class may be made up by preparing a **two-page, typed** (i.e. using maximum 12 point font size and maximum double-spaced text with one-inch margin on

all sides), **summary** on the missed material scheduled to be covered the day(s) of your absence. The summary must be in your own words and must **not** be copied material from the text(s), the internet, or any other source(s). **All summaries must be turned in to me by the last day of classes if you want credit for your absences.**

**Quiz and Test Policy:** You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until the last day of classes [i.e. November 30, 2018] at 11:55 p.m. to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the date indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam.** If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates.** The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-8. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 9-16. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

**Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes:** Each Chapter Quiz contains at least thirty questions and, sometimes, more. However, do not be discouraged by this, because you will NOT be graded on how many answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes but, rather, you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once. Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 10% credit (of your total 20% Attendance grade) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the “Submit” button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that Moodle notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

**Cell Phone Policy:** TURN OFF all cell phones during class or place on silent vibrate. If you must answer a phone call, then quietly leave the room to take your call. DO NOT play, utilize, or otherwise interact with your cell phone or any other electronic device during class. If caught in so doing, you will be expelled from the class session.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

**Disability Services Statement:** BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a **documented disability**, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

**Free Tutoring Services Available:** BSC offers **Smarthinking free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

**Library Learning Resources:** For students who have urgent queries for the BSC Librarian, you may quickly enroll in Library Learning Resources [<https://bluefieldstateonline.com/course/view.php?id=443>] and post your question using the Moodle email connection. This will then be answered by one of the on-duty librarians within a 24 hrs. time frame.

**Required Text:**

Hershey, Marjorie Randon. 2015. *Party Politics in America, Seventeenth Edition*. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis. [ISBN 13: 9781138683686], 398 pages, paperback.

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**\*\*\*This class is an interactive video web-enhanced class and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC Moodle website, including Selected Readings, chapter PowerPoint summaries, etc.\*\*\***

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### **Part One: Parties and Party Systems**

**Aug. 13-17:** Classes begin for Fall Semester

**Aug. 14 [Tuesday]:** What Are Political Parties?

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 1; in Selected Readings on the Course Moodle page James Madison, Federalist "No. 10"

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter One Quiz.

**Aug. 16 [Thursday]:** What Are Political Parties?

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 1; in Selected Readings on the Course Moodle page James Madison, Federalist "No. 10"

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter One Quiz.

**Aug. 21 [Tuesday]:** The American Two-Party System

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 2

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Two Quiz.

**Aug. 23 [Thursday]:** The American Two-Party System

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 2

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Two Quiz.

### **Part Two: The Political Party as an Organization**

**Aug. 28 [Tuesday]:** The State and Local Party Organizations

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 3

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Three Quiz.

**Aug. 30 [Thursday]:** The State and Local Party Organizations

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 3

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Three Quiz.

**Sept. 4 [Tuesday]:** The Parties' National Organizations

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 4

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Four Quiz.

**Sept. 6 [Thursday]:** The Parties' National Organizations

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 4

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Four Quiz.

**Sept. 11 [Tuesday]:** Party Activists

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 5

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Five Quiz.

**Sept. 13 [Thursday]:** Party Activists

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 5

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Five Quiz.

### **Part Three: The Political Party in the Electorate**

**Sept. 18 [Tuesday]:** Party Identification

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 6

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Six Quiz.

**Sept. 20 [Thursday]:** Party Identification

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 6

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Six Quiz.

**Sept. 25 [Tuesday]:** Party Coalitions and Party Change & Parties and Voter Turnout

**Readings:** Hershey Chs. 7 & 8

**Assignment:** Complete Chapters Seven and Eight Quizzes.

**Sept. 27 [Thursday]:** Party Coalitions and Party Change & Parties and Voter Turnout

**Readings:** Hershey Chs. 7 & 8

**Assignment:** Complete Chapters Seven and Eight Quizzes.

**Sept. 28-Oct. 7:** Midterm Exam [Click on "Midterm Exam". You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on October 7, 2018.]

**Oct. 8 [Monday]:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar electronically

**Part Four: Parties, Nominations, and Elections**

**Oct. 9 [Tuesday]:** How Parties Choose Candidates & Choosing the Presidential Nominees

**Readings:** Hershey Chs. 9 & 10

**Assignment:** Complete Chapters Nine and Ten Quizzes.

**Oct. 11 [Thursday]:** How Parties Choose Candidates & Choosing the Presidential Nominees

**Readings:** Hershey Chs. 9 & 10

**Assignment:** Complete Chapters Nine and Ten Quizzes.

**Oct. 16 [Tuesday]:** The General Election

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 11

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Eleven Quiz.

**Oct. 18 [Thursday]:** The General Election

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 11

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Eleven Quiz.

**Oct. 23 [Tuesday]:** Financing the Campaigns

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 12

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Twelve Quiz.

**Oct. 25 [Thursday]:** Financing the Campaigns

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 12

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Twelve Quiz.

**Part Five: The Party in Government**

**Oct. 30 [Tuesday]:** Parties in Congress and State Legislatures

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 13

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Thirteen Quiz.

**Nov. 1 [Thursday]:** Parties in Congress and State Legislatures

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 13

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Thirteen Quiz.

**Nov. 2 [Friday]:** Last Day to Withdraw from course/college with a grade of "W" or withdraw from the College

**Nov. 6 [Tuesday]:** The Party in the Executive and the Courts

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 14

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Fourteen Quiz.

**Nov. 8 [Thursday]:** The Party in the Executive and the Courts

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 14

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Fourteen Quiz.

**Nov. 13 [Tuesday]:** The Semi-Responsible Parties

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 15

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Fifteen Quiz.

**Nov. 15 [Thursday]:** The Semi-Responsible Parties

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 15

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Fifteen Quiz.

**Nov. 19-23:** Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

**November 25 [Sunday]:** [Research Papers Due]

**Assignment:** Research Papers Due today. Submit a copy of your Research Papers to Turnitin. Click on the Turnitin button on the course Moodle page for submission instructions. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

**Nov. 27 [Tuesday]:** The Place of Parties in American Politics

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 16

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Sixteen Quiz.

**Nov. 29 [Thursday]:** The Place of Parties in American Politics

**Readings:** Hershey Ch. 16

**Assignment:** Complete Chapter Sixteen Quiz.

**Nov. 30 [Friday]:** Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

**Nov. 30-Dec. 8: Final Exam** [Click on Quizzes and then on "Final Exam". You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on December 8, 2018.]

**Dec. 10 [Monday]:** Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.