Syllabus
Political Science Advanced Seminar: Parties and Nominations (PLSC 3290)
Tue/Thu 10:00-11:50AM, 175 Sturm Hall
Winter 2012
Professor Seth Masket

Contact Info:
e-mail: seth.masket@du.edu
Phone: 303-871-2718
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10AM-12PM, Thursdays 2-4PM, 466 Sturm Hall

Purpose
The process by which a party selects a presidential nominee is one of the most consequential processes in American politics, providing the narrow range of choices for voters in presidential elections and strongly determining the country’s governing path for the following four to eight years. Yet there is surprisingly little agreement as to just how this process works and what features of politics do, and do not, end up determining who wins.

This advanced seminar is an in-depth study of presidential nominations, coinciding conveniently with the early contests in the 2012 Republican presidential nomination race. The class begins on the same day as the Iowa Caucuses and concludes the same week as Super Tuesday, when at least a dozen states will hold their presidential contests. The Republican contests will form the bulk of the “data” we use to test the theories we discuss in class.

This class will emphasize depth rather than breadth in its subject matter. It has two main focuses – the details of presidential nominations, and the development and manifestation of American political ideologies. There will certainly be details of American party politics left out of this course, but at the very least, you will walk away from it an expert on these two subjects.

Work
You are required to keep up with the readings for class, as the bulk of class time will be devoted to discussion of the reading. The bulk of the reading for this class comes from two books, both of which are available from the DU Bookstore:

1. *The Party Decides*, by Cohen, Karol, Noel, and Zaller. This is quickly becoming one of the most important books in political science for understanding modern presidential nominations and, indeed, what parties are. The book is dense but highly readable and contains many useful anecdotes in addition to statistical analyses.

2. *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996*, by John Gerring. This is perhaps the most comprehensive study ever on the ideological beliefs advanced by America’s two major political parties. One of the most striking findings is the stability of these ideologies over time; a Republican criticism of Franklin Roosevelt in 1936 sounds almost identical to a Republican criticism of Barack Obama in 2012.
A few other readings will be made available on Blackboard.

In addition, each student will be assigned to run class discussions of the readings. You will be responsible for at least one discussion session over the duration of the course. You will likely work with another student in doing this. In these discussion sessions, you should a) provide a summary of the reading; b) apply the readings to what is currently going on in the presidential race; c) offer some sort of critique of the reading (something the authors failed to consider, ways the world has changed since the work was written, etc.); d) propose some sort of debate topic in which the class will engage. This entire session should last roughly an hour.

Also, each student will be assigned to give a short presentation in class about the ongoing presidential primaries and caucuses. You may sign up to provide the class with a preview of the contest or an analysis of the results. For a preview, you should tell the class: the rules of the contest (Primary or caucus? Open or closed? Binding or nonbinding?), the poll standings of the candidates going into the contest, and some idea of the candidates’ organizational capabilities and campaign approaches there. For an analysis, you should tell the class: the outcome (both in terms of votes and delegates awarded), interesting exit poll results (if available), and the interpretation of the outcome for the rest of the contest.

There will be two written assignments in the class – a short essay (3-5 pages), due during the 6th week, and a longer research paper (10-15 pages), due during the last week of class. Both assignments will tie the readings with the concurrent Republican presidential nomination contest. The research paper, in particular, will require a substantial amount of independent research on your part. Details about that assignment will come later in the course.

The graded material will be weighted as follows:

Short essay (25% of grade)
Research paper (50%)
Leading class discussion (15%)
Presidential contest presentation (10%)

Written work that is turned in past its due date may be accepted, but with a five percentage-point penalty for each late day. Thus an essay turned in three days late can receive no higher than an 85%. Late material will be accepted without penalty for medical excuses, assuming the student can provide documented evidence from a health provider.

**Etiquette**

Although I will spend some of our class time lecturing, we will have many dialogues in class. In these discussions, you are encouraged to use your personal experiences and perspectives, as well as your understanding of the course material and current events. Direct personal attacks against others in the class are not permitted. Insulting anyone one inside or outside the class on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation,
religion, or national background is not permitted. Violations of these rules will be reflected in your grade and, if they continue, may result in disciplinary action by the University.

**Contacting Me**
I frequently check e-mail (seth.masket@du.edu), so that is usually the best way to get in touch with me. I can also be reached on my office phone (x12718). I will also have regular office hours on Wednesdays from 10AM-12PM and Thursdays from 2-4PM. If you need me to get back to you within the same day, definitely e-mail me before 9PM. I can’t promise I’ll look at e-mail after that.

**Students with Special Needs**
Please contact me as soon as possible if you have a documented learning disability or other condition that requires accommodations, such as a separate testing room or extra time on exams.
Syllabus
Those readings marked with a computer symbol (💻) are on the course Blackboard website. If you have trouble accessing any of those readings, please notify me. Except for Week 1, all readings are expected to be completed by the Tuesday class of each week. Below, I have listed the relevant Republican presidential contests occurring each week.

**Week 1 – Introduction: The state of the 2012 nomination race** (Jan. 3rd, 5th)
**Topics:** Outline of class, understanding what parties are and aren’t, the rules of presidential nominations, the McGovern Fraser reforms.
**Readings:**
- Iowa Republican Caucus Procedure 📨
- Glassman – Horse Race 📨
- Putnam – GOP Delegate Allocation Rules 📨
- Silver – Political Gridlock in Iowa 📨

Contests: Iowa Caucus, Jan. 3rd.

**Week 2 – Theories of Parties** (Jan. 10th, 12th)
**Topics:** The united front, the long coalition, activists versus officeholders
**Readings:**
- Cohen et al., chapters 1 and 2


**Week 3 – The Old Party System** (Jan. 17th, 19th)
**Topics:** Party nominations and insurgencies before reform, Barry Goldwater
**Readings:**
- Cohen et al., chapter 4

1/19: Film in class: “Mr. Conservative”

Contests: South Carolina Primary, Jan. 21st

**Week 4 – Modern Party Nominations** (Jan. 24th, 26th)
**Readings:**
- Cohen et al., chapters 6 and 7

**Week 5 – What Drives Primary Elections?** (Jan. 31st, Feb. 2nd)
**Topics:** Polls, money, endorsements, organization, voters
**Readings:**
- Cohen et al., chapters 8 and 9

Contests: Florida Primary, Jan. 31st
Nevada Caucuses, Feb. 4th
Maine Caucuses, Feb 4th – 11th
Week 6 – Caucuses and Primaries (Feb. 7th, 9th)
Topics: The Colorado caucus, caucus participants versus primary voters
Readings:
- Masket – Colorado 2008
- Hersh – Primaries and Caucuses

Contests: Colorado caucuses, Feb. 7th
          Missouri primary, Feb. 7th
          Minnesota caucuses, Feb. 7th
          Wyoming caucuses, Feb. 9th – 29th

Short essay due in class Tuesday, February 7th.

Week 7 – Early Whig Republican Ideology (Feb. 14th, 16th)
Topics: Ideology, Whigs, National Republicans, anti-business sentiment, elites and democracy
Readings:
- Gerring, chapters 1 and 3

Week 8 – Modern Republicans and Early Democrats (Feb. 21st, 23rd)
Topics: Neo-liberalism, anti-government rhetoric, Jeffersonian ideals
Readings:
- Gerring, chapters 4 and 5

Week 9 – Modern Democratic Ideology (Feb. 28th, Mar. 1st)
Topics: Populism, universalism.
Readings:
- Gerring, chapters 6 and 7

Contests: Arizona primary, Feb. 28th
          Michigan primary, Feb. 28th

Week 10 – Third Parties and Tea Parties (Mar. 6th, 8th)
Topics: Purpose and history of third party movements, logic of two-partyism, the Tea Party movement
Readings:
- Friedman – Radical Center
- Masket & Noel – Third Party
- This Party Sucks (audio)

Contests: Colorado Democratic Caucuses, Mar. 6th
Super Tuesday! Contests in VT, TX, VA, OH, OK, TN, ID, GA, ND

Research paper due in class Thursday, March 8th.