

| POLS 4401 Political Parties and Interest Groups - American Politics | Goal/Objective | Outcomes Reflecting Goal | Assignments Demonstrating Achieving Outcome |
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| | The historical development and role of political parties and organized interests in a democracy | We will begin by examining the nature of intermediaries and the environment in which parties and groups developed | Course readings and discussions, in-class projects, short response papers, and take home-work final essay |
| | Explore and understand the various aspects of the parties and how those have changed over time | Students will understand party identification and voting; activists, organization, and party activities within government; party reform; what the parties stand for; and how they've changed dramatically since the 1960s | Course readings and discussions, in-class projects, short response papers, and take home-work final essay |
| | Explore and understand the various aspects of interest groups and those have changed over time | Students will explore the nature, incentives, and organization of organized interests; the campaign finance reforms that caused a big increase in political action committees (PACs); single-issue politics and social movements; and alternative futures for parties and interest groups. | Course readings and discussions, in-class projects, short response papers, and take home-work final essay |