

Politics of the Tea Party Government 307

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Class meets: T/TR, 2-3:15, ICC 214

Office hours: TR 1-2, or appointment.

1 Course Description

Politics of the Tea Party acquaints students with one of the newer phenomenons in American Politics. Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of the Tea Party movement by reading Tea Party resources and the latest scholarship on the Tea Party. The course also places the Tea Party in perspective by comparing it to other social movements and minor parties. Students will leave the class with deeper knowledge not only of the Tea Party but also of the American political system, party politics, and social movements.

2 Goals and Expectations

- **Goals**

- By the end of the semester, students should understand the difference between political parties, social movements, and interest groups in the US political context. They should also have a working knowledge of the Tea Party in comparison with other US social/political movements.

- **Expectations**

- Students are expected to refrain from using technology during class (computers, iPads, tablets, phones, or anything else that has a battery and is distracting).
- Students are expected to do the readings, arrive on time, and be engaged during class.
- I have a zero-tolerance plagiarism policy.

3 Graded Components

There are three graded components to this course.

- Participation: 20% of your grade
 - Participation is a combination of attendance and discussion.
 - Each student is given 1 unexcused absence. Students must obtain permission from the instructor prior to any other absences, or these will impact the student's grade.
 - Class will be discussion based. Students are expected to come to class having done the readings and prepared to discuss them.
- Weekly response sheet: 20% of your grade
 - Each student will turn in one response sheet a week, alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays (schedule determined in class).
 - The response sheets must: a) summarize the main argument or thesis of that day's readings, and b) pose 1-3 thoughtful questions.
 - Response sheets must be emailed to the instructor prior to class.
 - Response sheets will be graded on a scale of 1-5, and your highest and lowest grades will be dropped.
- Research paper and presentation: 60% of your grade
 - Each student will work on a scholarly research paper (15-25 pages, double spaced, 12 point font, Microsoft Word) throughout the semester. The paper may draw from any of the themes or topics covered in the class, and need not be specifically about the Tea Party.
 - At the end of the semester, they will present key components of their presentation to the class (10% of the paper grade).
 - The paper will be due via email to the instructor on the date scheduled for the final exam.
 - Further instructions will be given in class.

4 Required Readings

Many of the readings will be available electronically (on Blackboard), but you are required to purchase the following books from your favorite retailer. I'm personally a fan of Amazon and half.com.

- Zernike, Kate. 2010. Boiling Mad: Inside Tea Party America. New York: Times Books.

- Rosenthal, Lawrence and Christine Trost, eds. *Steep: The Precipitous Rise of the Tea Party*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Williamson, Vanessa and Theda Skocpol. 2012. *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Parker, Christopher and Matt Barreto. 2013. *Change They Can't Believe in: The Tea Party and Reactionary Politics in America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Goldstone, Jack A, ed. 2003. *States, Parties, and Social Movements*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cohen, Marty, David Karol, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2008. *The Party Decides*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Noel, Hans. 2014. *Political Ideology and Political Parties in America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5 Schedule

All readings should be completed by the assigned date

Unit 1: Introduction

January 9: No class (I am at a conference).

Begin reading Zernike.

January 14: Introductory class.

Continue reading Zernike.

January 16: Boiling Mad? Discuss Zernike.

Unit 2: What motivates the Tea Party? Explanations in the Literature

January 21: Candidate A: Economic libertarianism.

Read Kirby and Elkins (online).

January 23: Candidate B: Big-time donors.

Read Monbiot (online) and Lo (chapter, in *Steep*). Begin reading Skocpol.

January 28: Candidate C: General conservatism.

Read Abramowitz (online) and chapter in *Steep*.

January 30: General conservatism cont. Discuss Skocpol.

Begin reading Parker and Barreto.

February 4: Candidate D: Racism.

Read and discuss Disch (chapter, in *Steep*).

Continue Parker/Barreto.

February 6: Racism, cont. Discuss Parker and Barreto.

February 11: Candidate E: Disaffection with GOP.

Read Rapaport; Blum (online).

Unit 3: What kind of movement is the Tea Party?

February 13: Snow day **February 18** Social movement.

Read McCarthy and Zald; Benford and Snow; Morris (all online); Goldstone introduction.

February 20: Single issue movements

Readings on the Women's Movement and Temperance (online).

February 25: Historical minorities

Read Goldstone, Ch 1 and 7.

February 27: What do movements respond to and where do they go?

Read Gurr, Gurney and Tierney, and Skocpol (online).

March 4: Movements and Elites

Read Goldstone, Ch 8; Wilcox (online)

March 6: Political Party

Read Cohen et al, Ch. 1-3

March 18: Fate of minor parties in US

Read Heaney and Rojas (online)

March 20: Paper topic discussion

March 25: Outside speaker

Unit 4: Ideology

March 27: What is Ideology?

Read Noel, Introduction-Ch 3

April 1: How is ideology transmitted?

Read Noel, Ch 4

April 3: Class cancelled (I will be at a conference)

April 8: What is Tea Party Ideology? Possessive Individualism?

Read Locke's 2nd Treatise, selections (online)

April 10: What is Tea Party Ideology? Federalism and the Founding. Read selected Federalist Papers (online)

Presentations

April 15: Presentations

April 22: Presentations

April 24: Presentations