

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 324: Political Parties and Interest Groups

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course will examine the role of parties in American politics and the relationship between parties and interest groups which is relatively new to American politics. The course will examine how parties compete with and complement one another. The behavior of parties and interest groups in elections and governance will be examined.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 02/20/1999 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Political Party and Interest Group Organizational Structure
2. Role of Ideology, Activists and Voters in Political Party Behavior
3. Role of Recruitment and Retention of Membership in Interest Group Influence
4. Financial Needs and Constraints for Parties and Interest Groups
5. Role of Parties and Interest Groups in U.S. elections
6. Role of Parties and Interest Groups in U.S. Policymaking

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students identify and explain the organizational needs for parties and interest groups.
2. Students analyze the effect of ideological separation between parties.
3. Students explore and analyze how parties and interest groups support/oppose candidates in elections.
4. Students explore and analyze how parties in power direct U.S. policymaking.
5. Students understand and explain how interest groups use a variety of tactics to support their policy preferences.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted