Spring 2007   **PLS 405, Section 001**   **Hershey**
Dr. Roger C. Lowery   **POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS IN THE U.S.**   **Chapter 1**
Part One: Parties and Party Systems
Ch. 1: *What Are Political Parties?*

I.   Part One: intermediaries between citizens and government: | Figure I.1, p. 2 |
   A.   **Political movements**: an unorganized group of individuals that recognize that they share a common political interest/grievance
   B.   **Political interest groups**: an organized group of individuals that seek to further their common political interest by influencing government from the outside by
      1.   Lobbying elected branches
      2.   Litigating in the judicial branch
      3.   Electioneering
      4.   Public relations
         a.   Legal demonstrations & media campaigns
         b.   Civil disobedience
         c.   Violence
   C.   **Political parties**: an organized group (*the party organization*) of individual voters (*the party in the electorate*) that seek to further their common political interests by influencing government from the inside (*the party in government*) by
      1.   Nominating and supporting candidates running for elected public office
      2.   Organizing majority or minority factions within elected governmental officeholders
   D.   **Communications media**

II. Chapter 1: A three-part definition of parties | F 1.1, p. 8 | first suggested by V. O. Key, Jr.
   A.   Major components
      1.   The party organization: leaders & activists
      2.   The party in government: candidates & officeholders (elected or appointed)
      3.   The party in the electorate: party identifiers & party voters
   B.   Inter-relationships vary:
      1.   Over time
      2.   Between levels - state and federal
      3.   Between states
      4.   Between parties within a particular state

III. What parties do
   A.   Electing candidates
   B.   Educating (or propagandizing) citizens
      1.   Individual freedom v. government guaranteed order
      2.   Individual freedom v. government guaranteed equality
   C.   Governing (and representing the interests of groups that identify with and support the party)
      1.   Class
      2.   Race
      3.   Gender
      4.   Region
      5.   Religious identification
      6.   Age
   D.   All three activities are in competition with political movements, interest groups, and the media

IV. The effects of party activity
   A.   Simplify complexity of politics for citizens
   B.   Aggregate individual and group interests
   C.   Recruit political leaders
   D.   Help unify a system of fragmented decision making and enforcement

V.   How do parties differ from other political groups?
   A.   Parties are paramount in elections (but are losing much of that dominance)
   B.   They have a full-time commitment to political activity
   C.   They mobilize large numbers (more critical in a two-party system)
   D.   They endure (but adapt and change)
   E.   They serve as political symbols (and for many voters the most important cue for vote choice)

VI. How the American parties developed
   A. The founding of American parties   Box, p. 15
      1. Began as supporters and opponents of ratification of the U.S. Constitution
      2. Developed in a system of limited suffrage and indirect election of the president & Senate
         a. Dominated by party in (federal) government: congressional caucuses & committees of correspondence
         b. Pre-occupied with national policy & selection of presidential nominees
      3. Democratic-Republican successor to Antifederalists was the first party to organize at the state & local level
      4. The expansion of suffrage to the lesser-advantaged (and statehood to the frontier territories) hindered the more elitist Federalist party's efforts to organize a grass-roots base and it consequently disappeared by 1816
      5. Without competition, the Democratic-Republican party organization stalled its state/local efforts
   B. The emergence of a national two-party system
      1. Polarized wings of the Democratic-Republican party split with the election of 1824
         a. The frontier/agrarian wing under Jackson evolved into the Democratic Party
         b. The National-Republican wing under Clay merged with the Whigs
      2. Mass-based parties emerged for the first time
         a. Popular election replaced state-legislative selection of presidential electors by 1828 (except for SC)
         b. The congressional party caucus system gave way to the national party convention system for setting policy and nominating presidential candidates
         c. The system of state legislative party caucuses also gave way to state and local party conventions
         d. This spurred both parties to organize and expand their state & local grassroots bases
      3. The two parties remained fairly evenly balanced nationally until the Civil War
   C. The Golden Age of the parties
      1. Massive immigration
         a. First from Ireland & Germany, later from southern & eastern Europe
         b. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 & Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924
      2. State/county/urban machine politics: group services to rich and poor exchanged for electoral support
   D. The Progressive reforms (middle-class progressives targeted abuse of political power by
      1. Rich
         a. Direct election of U.S. Senators
         b. Anti-trust legislation
         c. Competitive bidding for government contracts
      2. Poor
         a. Australian ballot
         b. Voter registration
   E. Later reforms
      1. The direct primary system displaces the party convention selection of general-election nominees
      2. Post-Watergate campaign-finance reforms

VII. What do the parties stand for?   Table 1.1, p. 21
   A. Balancing individual freedom v. government guarantees of order
   B. Balancing individual freedom v. government-guarantees of equality

VIII. Parties are shaped by their environment
   A. Voters and elections
   B. Political institutions (fragmentation by Founding Fathers)
      1. Division of power by levels (federalism)
      2. Separation of powers by branches
      3. Overlapping of powers across both levels and branches
   C. Laws governing parties
   D. Political culture: Daniel Elazar's classification, http://academic.regis.edu/jriley/421elazar.htm
      1. Moral (progressive)
      2. Individual (group competition)
      3. Traditional (stratified)
   E. The broader (nonpolitical) environment (especially changes in mass media)