Nebraska Wesleyan University

POLSC 2550 Political Parties and Interest Groups

Catalog

2025-2026

Course Description

In the twenty-first century, the role of partisanship in the political process continues to be a salient topic for discussion among political elites, scholars, and constituents alike. This course aims to provide students with a detailed background in the formation of political groups and their function in government systems, as well as their role as a prevalent part of constituent identities. Through examination of relevant research and more contemporary examples, this class will also address and evaluate the topic of polarization and its effects on the behavior of elites and constituents in the modern era. Over the course of the semester, we will cover topics like the development of political parties, their effect on elections and in policy making, the rise of party as a salient identity for the public, and the theories behind polarization and realignment. Upon leaving this course, students should have a better understanding of political groups and the various facets of their operations.

Course Hours

3 hours

Departments

1. Political Science