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| Class Notes / PowerPoint Presentation / Textbook Notes  Mr. Kay’s  American Government Class  Name:  Class:  Period:  Date:  Chapter 5 Section 1: | |
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| *Questions/Main Ideas:* |  |
| *Objectives* | 1. Define a *political party*. 2. Describe the major functions of political parties. 3. Identify the reasons why the United States has a two-party system. 4. Understand multiparty and one-party systems and how they affect the functioning of a political system. |
| Key Terms |  |
| **political party**: | * a group of persons who seek to control government by winning elections and holding public office |
| **political spectrum**: | * the range of political views, from the so-called left to the right |
| **partisanship**: | * strong support for a specific political party and its policies |
| **single-member districts**: | * a voting district in which only one candidate is elected to each office on the ballot |
| **plurality**: | * the largest number of votes cast for an elected office; this number does not have to be a majority of *all* votes cast |
| ***bipartisan****:* | * an approach to policy making in which the two major parties find common ground on an issue |
| ***consensus****:* | * general agreement among different groups on an issue |
| ***coalition****:* | * a temporary alliance of several groups who join to form a working majority in a multiparty system |
| *Introduction* | * What are political parties, and how do they function in our two-party system? |
| What is a Party? | * Checkpoint: What are the three elements that make up a political party? |
| What Parties Do? |  |
| Roles of Parties |  |
| Parties as “Watchdogs” | * Checkpoint: How do parties perform the watchdog function? |
| The Two-Party System |  |
| Tradition |  |
| Tradition, cont. |  |
| Building Consensus |  |
| Political Spectrum | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Radical** |  | | **Liberal** |  | | **Moderate** |  | | **Conservative** | . | | **Reactionary** |  | |

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| Multiparty Systems |  |
| Multiparty Systems, cont. |  |
| ***Review***  ***\*\*\*Summary, Reflection, Analysis*** | – Does the two-party system help or harm democracy? |