17.22 students will campaign

By Mitchell Trachtenberg

Ten MIT students will be playing an active role in this year's local election campaign as part of a new subject offered by the Political Science Department.

The new subject, "Political Parties and the 1974 Elections" (17.22) is being taught by Assistant Professor F. Christopher Arterton, a new member of the faculty. Arterton hopes to combine academic preparation with the job experience to provide the best possible educational experience for his students. Among the topics Arterton plans to explore with his class are the new Massachusetts Regulations for Campaign Finance Reporting, party participation, the effects of campaigns on political parties and vice versa, and, of course, the impact of Watergate and the Nixon pardon. However, the unique aspect of the subject will be the actual student participation in various local campaigns. With Arterton's assistance, students will obtain positions in campaigns for city councilman, state senate, state representatives, congressmen and others. Arterton's own political background is impressive. As a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention, he was elected to the Platform Committee and the Drafting Sub-committee, where he helped write the Democrat's Platform. He is also a member of the National Board of the Americans for Democratic Action, and of the New Democratic Coalition.

Obviously a liberal Democrat, he hopes to keep himself from pushing his students in the direction. Coming from states as different as Tennessee, South Dakota, and New York, with one coming from Spain, the students have a wide variety of political opinions. They are being encouraged to choose candidates who they are interested in and in general agreement with.

Arterton, who graduated from MIT, spent the last year and a half as a graduate student and instructor at Wellesley and has just joined the MIT faculty. To his knowledge, no other school has an organized class of this nature of "Political Parties."