American Political Parties  
T-TH 1:15 - 2:35 pm  
BA 130

Course Description
This course will examine the theory, organizational forms, and dynamics of American political parties with special attention to the relationship between race and partisanship, and the factors that promote party persistence over time.

Required Readings
Marjorie Randon Hershey, *Party Politics in America*  
Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances*  
Jill Lepore, *The Whites of their Eyes, The Tea Party’s Revolution and the Battle Over America’s History*  
Mildred A. Schwartz, *Party Movements in the United States and Canada*  
Kate Zernike, *Boiling Mad, Inside Tea Party America*

Course Requirements
The course will consist of lectures, readings, class discussion, two short essays, and two tests. The readings required for each session are specified below. Class discussion will provide opportunities to ask questions, explore issues, define concepts, and to analyze and evaluate propositions. The essays will measure your analytical and writing skills, and the tests will measure your ability to recall information. Good listening and note-taking skills and careful reading of the texts are essential.

The course grade will be based on your performance on the writing assignments (30%), a mid-term exam based on the material covered up to that point (40%), and a final exam based on the material covered during the second half of the semester (30%). Study guides for the exams will be available a week before the test date. There will be no individual or class review sessions after the study guides are distributed. This means you must make sure you participate as actively as possible in class and take full advantage of individual consultations during office hours.

Office Hours
Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, HU B16; 4:00-5:00 pm Milne 219  
Also by appointment. e-mail: conga@albany.edu

Course Schedule
August 30- October 13: Theory, History, Structure  
Mid-term exam: October 18  
October 20 - December 6: Persistence of Parties, Racial Politics, The Tea Party  
Final exam: December 15, 8:00-10:00 am, BA 130

Detailed Course Schedule
August
30 – Introduction

September
1 – No Class. Professor Cruz at APSA Conference  
6 - Lecture: The idea of a party system  
8 - Lecture: Parties and Democratic Governance  
13 – Lecture: Interest Groups in American National Politics. **Give out first essay assignment.**  
15 - Hershey, Chs. 1-4
20 - Hershey, Chs. 5-8
22 - Hershey, Chs. 9-12 **First essay due.**
27 - Hershey, Chs. 13-16

**October**
4 - Frymer, Ch. 2-3
6 - Frymer, Ch. 4-5
11 - Frymer, Ch. 6-7
13 – Floater - **Give out study guides.**
18 - Mid-term exam
20 - Schwartz, Chs. 1-3
25 - Schwartz, Chs. 4-6 **Give out second essay assignment.**
27 - Schwartz, Chs. 7-8

**November**
1 - Floater
3 - Zernike, Chs. 1-3 **Second essay due.**
8 - Zernike, Chs. 4-6
10 - Zernike, Chs. 7-9
15 – Floater
17 – Lepore, Prologue and Chs. 1-2
22 – Lepore, Chs. 3-4
29 – Lepore, Ch. 5 and Epilogue

**December**
1 – Lecture: American political parties in comparative perspective
6 – Lecture: American political parties in comparative perspective. **Give out study guides.**
15 - Final Exam 8:00 -10:00am, BA 130