

### **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](mailto: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