Objectives: This course considers the significance of political parties for American democracy and the nature of party politics in the United States. We begin by trying to establish what political parties are, why they emerge, and how the competition among them shapes and is shaped by the electoral system. We then look at the development of party politics in the United States in order to achieve both a historical perspective on current politics and a better understanding of how parties and competition among them changes over time. Next we examine how political parties organize contemporary electoral politics and the influence of voters, activists, interest groups, the media and money. During the last third of the course we assess how and how well representation is achieved through parties and elections in the U.S.

Prerequisite: An introductory course in American politics or permission of the instructor.

Requirements: The course has four requirements.

- **Response papers.** Four times during the quarter, you must submit a one page essay that analyzes the readings. Writing these essays will help you think critically about the material, prepare for class, and test ideas before you incorporate them into responses to exam questions. I will use the response papers as a basis for discussion in class.

  Response papers should be critical commentaries, not mere summaries of the readings. You are welcome to write about any aspect of the assigned texts, provided that your paper contains an argument. Each week I will distribute a list of specific questions to stimulate your thinking. You may focus your essay on one reading or compare and synthesize the arguments of several authors.

  Response papers should be short: no more than two double-spaced pages with 12-point font and one-inch margins. An effective response paper begins with a succinct (one or two sentence) statement of your argument, and it supports the argument with logic and
evidence. Cite page numbers when you offer a quote or reference a particular piece of data.

Papers are due in my physical or electronic mailbox at 8am on the day that we will discuss the readings in class. Response papers are worth 30% of your final grade.

- **Class participation.** While I will present a lecture in each class period, there will be time during my presentation and at the end of class for students to discuss the lecture and readings. The discussion will center around student response papers and students should anticipate talking about what they write. Your participation grade depends more on the quality than on the quantity of your contributions. Class participation is 10% of your final grade.

- **Midterm Exam.** There will be an in-class midterm exam worth 25% of your grade.

- **Final Exam.** There will be a final exam worth 35% of your grade.

**Texts:** All reading assignments will come from the following sources:


Paul Herrnson & John Green, eds. *Multiparty Politics in America.*


Articles from scholarly journals and chapters from books (designated by a * in the syllabus). Available in PDF format at the course website and on reserve at Green library. You may make one copy for academic use.
**Lectures and Readings**

**Week 1 (4/2, 4/4): Basic Functions and Theories of Parties.**

Schattschneider. (chapters 1-4; pp. 1-75)
Eldersveld & Walton. (ch. 1-2, pp. 1-42)

**Week 2 (4/9, 4/11): The Early Development of Parties.**

Aldrich. (chapters 1-3; pp 1-97)

**Week 3 (4/16, 4/18): Parties off and running.**

Aldrich. (chapters 4-5; pp. 97-156)
Schattschneider. (pp. 76-83) [read only this part of chapter]

**Week 4 (4/23, No class 4/25): Exclusion and Inclusion.**

Eldersveld & Walton. (ch. 16, pp. 354-86)
*Freeman. 1999. *A Room at a Time: How Women Entered Party Politics.* (ch. 2-3) (pp. 27-61)
Schattschneider. (pp. 84-94) [read only this part of chapter]

**Week 5 (4/30, 5/2): Machines and Their Fall.**

Eldersveld & Walton. (ch. 6-7 and 9-10, pp. 102-47 and 174-219)
Selections from *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*

**Week 6 (5/7, 5/9): Parties, Voters, Activists and Interest Groups**

*Morris Fiorina. Retrospective Voting.* (part 1, 3-62).
Aldrich. (chapter 6; 163-193)

**Week 7 (5/14, 5/16): Parties and Money**

Eldersveld & Walton, Jr. (ch. 11 and 14, pp. 220-46 and 305-20)
*West. (Selections).

**Week 8 (5/21, 5/23): Do Parties Make Government Responsible**

Eldersveld & Walton, Jr. (ch. 15, pp. 321-53)
Aldrich. (ch. 7-8, 194-277).

**Week 9 (5/28, 5/30): Divided Government**