Course Description: This course concerns the central linkage mechanisms of American Government: political parties and interest groups. Both these institutions serve to link the desires and viewpoints of ordinary Americans to actual governing in Washington and statehouses. The first part of the course will explore the structure of the party system in America, how it compares to other countries, and the struggle of third parties in America. The second part of the class will explore political parties as organizations working towards electoral victory. The third part of the class will examine parties as changing coalitions of voters. The fourth part examine the effects of party affiliations in the U.S. Congress and how this compares to other nations. The last portion of the course will cover Interest Groups: how they are similar to and different from parties, how and why they form, and how they affect the functioning of our Government. We will conclude the course by considering the future of American political parties and Interest Groups as we move into the 21st century.

Readings: The following books are required for this course:
- Hershey, Marjorie *Party Politics in America, 11th Edition*
- Berry, Jeffrey. *Interest Group Society. 3rd Edition*
- Selected articles and book chapters (marked with *) available on electronic reserve

You are also expected to read the *New York Times* or *Washington Post* daily in order to discuss how contemporary political issues are related to various aspects of party and interest group politics.

Requirements and Grading:
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 20%
- Party ID paper 15%
- Seminar paper 30%
- Participation 15%

Class Participation
As this is a seminar, class participation is an integral part of the class. At minimum, this means good attendance. Students are also expected to be attentive during lectures and to ask questions and contribute comments to class discussions. You should come to each class having read the required assignment and prepared to discuss and comment upon the issues raised by the readings. It is also your responsibility to remain abreast of current events in American politics, especially as they apply to political parties and interest groups, and be prepared to discuss these events in class.
Paper Assignments

Assignment #1: Party Identification Genogram and Autobiography
Create a genogram of your party identification. That is, make a diagram which indicates your partisanship as well as the party identification of as many of your relatives as you can find out. Write a short paper discussing your genogram. Some questions you may address include: What patterns are evident? Why do you think you have your particular partisanship? Has your family changed over the years? What has happened where persons of opposite political parties have married? What impact do political independents have? How has your family influenced your party identification? What other factors have influenced your partisanship? You are responsible for the complete details of the paper assignment at: http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/paper1.htm. Due on October 27.

Assignment #2: Seminar paper: State Political Parties
Choose a state other than North Carolina and analyze the state of the parties there. Analyze the party organization, the party electorate, and the party in government. How is the history of the parties in your state relevant to the present party context? What is the current state of party organization in your state and how does it compare with previous decades? How strong are local-level party organizations? In general, what factors account for the strength (or lack thereof) of party organizations in your state? For the party in the electorate, what is the partisan (including independents) and ideological balance in your state and how do you account for it? How do race, gender, economic, and geography affect partisanship in your state? Is the government in your state divided or unified? Does your state have a clear pattern of divided or unified control? How cohesive are the parties in the state legislature and how much power does party leadership have in the state house? The paper should be analytical. Focus on how the answers to these questions explain the state of the parties in your state. You are responsible for the complete details of the paper assignment at: http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/paper2.htm. Due on November 22. No Extensions.

You will also need to have chosen your state and complete a basic outline and list of sources you plan on using to be turned in by September 29.

General Information: Policies regarding all paper assignments can be found at http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/PS401/PaperGuidelines.htm. You are expected to read these guidelines before submitting your paper.

Late Policy
All paper assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day late. If you miss an exam, you will receive a failing grade unless you have provided a valid excuse beforehand or you have an emergency situation.

Course Webpage
The webpage for this course is located at http://www2.chass.ncsu.edu/shgreene/ps401. This webpage is an important resource for this class. It will contain archived lecture outlines, important links to additional resources for the paper assignments, and important class announcements.
Class Email list
On occasion, announcements will be made through email messages. The University has an official email address on file for each of you. It is your responsibility to see to it that you receive email from this account.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to complete their assignments with due regard to academic integrity. In order to do so they should familiarize themselves with the relevant sections of the student code of conduct (Sections 7-13). By signing all work submitted on paper, or by identifying themselves in work submitted electronically, students affirm that they neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. Collaboration on assignments among students may only occur when explicitly authorized by an instructor.

In particular the Department of Political Science takes plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism is “the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas.” Students found guilty of academic misconduct will at a minimum receive a 0 for the assignment and have their conduct reported to the office of student affairs. Depending on the severity of the infraction, it is possible that you will automatically fail the course.

Disability
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653

THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM: HOW DOES IT WORK, WHY DOES IT MATTER?

August 18
Class Introduction

August 23-25
Parties what are they? Good or bad?
Hershey, chapter 1
Madison, “Federalist #10”*

August 30 – Sept 6
The structure of party systems
(No Class Sept 1)
Hershey, chapter 2

September 8
Third parties

PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTIES IN THE ELECTORAL ARENA

September 13
The Changing Face of Party Organizations
Hershey, Part II
Aldrich, “The Critical Era of the 1960’s”*
September 15-20  The Tangled Web of Campaign Finance  
Hershey, chapter 12  
Berry, chapter 7  
Rauch, “Here’s a New Campaign Finance Reform Plan”*  
Currinder, “Campaign Finance: Funding the 2004 Elections”*

September 22-29  Parties in the Electoral Arena  
Hershey, intro to part IV, chapters 9-11  
Dodenhoff and Goldstein, “Resources, Racehorses, and Rules.”*  
Paper #2 Outline due September 29

POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE

October 4-11  Party Identification of the American Electorate: then and now  
Hershey, chapters 6 & 7  

October 13-18  Party Polarization  
Fiorina, from *Culture Wars*  
Abramowitz and Saunders “Why Can’t we All Just Get Along?”*  
Pew Center for People & Press, “2005 Political Typology”*  
Take typology quiz at: http://typology.people-press.org/

October 20  MIDTERM EXAM

October 25  The Gender Gap and Race Gap in American Partisanship  
Sapiro, “The Gender Basis of Public Opinion”*  
Tate, Katherine. “Blacks and the Democratic Party”*

POLITICAL PARTIES IN GOVERNMENT

October 27– Nov 1  Political Parties in the Legislature/Party in Government  
Hershey, Intro to part V, chapters 13 and 15  
Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House* (chapter 6)*  
Paper 1 due October 27

INTEREST GROUPS

November 3-8  An Interest Group Society  
Berry, chapters 1-3

November 10  Interest Group Mobilization  
Berry, chapter 4

November 15-17  Lobbying  
Berry, chapters 5, 6, & 8
November 22-29  Interest Groups and Public Policy  Berry, chapters 9 & 10  
(No Class Nov 24)  Paper #2 due November 22

Cigler and Loomis, “From Big Bird to Bill Gates: Organized Interests and the Emergence of Hyperpolitics.”*

December 8, 1:00 PM  FINAL EXAM