Description

This course is about conflict within political parties. Each party is a coalition of diverse interests. Yet to produce a coherent image and agenda, the parties’ coalitional groups must work within party institutions to aggregate their competing demands into a united front. This course focuses on the efforts of organized interests to use party institutions to obtain control over public policy and on how those efforts contribute to continuity and change in American politics.

Reading

All the required reading will be made available on the course web site.

Graded Assignments

The course grade will be determined by the following:

- **Class Participation and Engagement** (25 percent)
- **Data Project** (10 percent) Part 1 due April 13, part 2 due April 20
- **Midterm Exam** (25 percent) Tentatively scheduled for May 11 (Week 7)
- **Research Paper** (30 percent) Due June 1
- **Screencast Presentation of Research Project** (10 percent) Post the screencast by May 25
Reading Assignments

1. Politics, Democracy, and Political Parties (March 30)

   Required
   None.

2. The Electorate (April 6)

   Required

   Recommended

3. Elites and the Structure of Public Opinion (April 13)

   Required

   Recommended
   Dan Ariely lecture on behavioral economics (podcast).

4. Presidential Selection and the American Party System (April 20)

   Required

5. Change in the Democratic Party (April 27)

   Required

   Recommended

6. Change in the Republican Party (May 4)

   Required

Recommended

7. Liberalism (May 11)

Required

Recommended

8. Conservatism (May 18)

Required

Recommended

9. Memorial Day (May 25)
10. Screencasts (June 1)

Required
Watch the screencasts your classmates post on the internet.