

Spring 2008

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Office Hours: TuTh, 12:15-2:00,  
4:45-8:00; by chance, or  
by appointment

## **POLS 4985/5985: SOUTHERN POLITICS**

The most striking, and important, national electoral trend over the past fifty years has been the growth of Republican strength in the states comprising the American South. Since the 1950s, the area encompassing the eleven states of the Confederacy has undergone an extraordinarily slow yet revolutionary realignment, moving from a bastion of Democratic strength to becoming possibly the nation's most Republican region.

Not only have these changes affected the partisan makeups of the eleven Southern states, but they have also had staggering national implications; in short, the political realignment in the South in large measure explains most of the important national political trends since the 1960s.

The readings, lectures, and class discussions in this course will focus on this unique transformation, examining both its causes and consequences; all of the major events affecting the politics of the South from 1950 until the present will be examined. The general form of the course will be chronological, with certain events receiving especial emphasis – for example, the enfranchisement of millions of Southern blacks in the 1960s and the resulting consequences for both political parties.

The course will consist of lectures combined with much class discussion, and each week the class will read approximately 150-200 pages; such readings will include the most important books and articles in the field, and have been chosen both for their information and because they are “good reads.” The entire assignment should be read before each class, although to stimulate class discussion, as well as allow a detailed knowledge of various specific areas, for some weeks each student will be asked to pay special attention to certain subjects. For example, because three of the books have separate chapters on the politics of each of the eleven states, during the January 17 class each student will pick three of the eleven states on which s/he will pay special attention.

The course requirements include two tests, on or about February 19 and October 27, both of which will count 25% towards the final grade, as well as the final examination, on May 6 at 2:00 p.m., which will count 30%. The final 20% of your grade will be based on class participation.

A make-up mid-term will not be given unless permission to miss the scheduled test has been by me *in advance*. Evidence of cheating on any test will be reported to the Academic Honesty Committee, and may be grounds for receiving an F for the course, or even suspension or expulsion from the university.

A syllabus is attached.

## SYLLABUS

### **JAN 10: INTRODUCTION**

### **JAN 15: DEFINING THE SOUTH; SETTLING THE SOUTH**

John Shelton Reed, *My Tears Spoiled My Aim* (1993), 5-28.

### **JAN 17: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> PARTY SYSTEMS; CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION**

Kenneth C. Barnes, *Who Killed John Clayton?: Political Violence and the Emergence of the New South, 1861-1893* (1998), 1-36

### **JAN 22: DISFRANCHISEMENT and JIM CROW**

Barnes, *Who Killed John Clayton?*, 33-132

### **JAN 24 - FEB 5: THE ONE-PARTY SOUTH (I)**

V.O. Key, Jr., *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949), 3-311

### **FEB 7 - FEB 14: THE ONE-PARTY SOUTH (II)**

Key, *Southern Politics*, 345-82, 406-23, 489-554, 555-643 (skim), 664-75

Earl Black and Merle Black, *The Rise of Southern Republicans* (2002), 40-71

### **FEB 19: FIRST TEST**

### **FEB 21 - MAR 6: CIVIL RIGHTS & EQUAL APPORTIONMENT**

As discussed in class, you will read one of the following:

Dan T. Carter, *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics* (1995)

Jack Bass and Marilyn Thompson, *Strom* (2005)

J. Harvie Wilkinson III, *Harry Byrd and the Changing Face of Virginia Politics, 1945-1966* (1968)

Roy Reed, *Faubus: The Life and Times of An American Prodigal* (1997)

A.J. Liebling, *The Earl of Louisiana: The liberal Long* (1961)

**MAR 11 - MAR 25: SOUTHERN POLITICS IN THE 1960s and 1970s**

Numan V. Bartley and Hugh D. Graham, *Southern Politics and the Second Reconstruction* (1975)

Jack Bass and Walter DeVries, *The Transformation of Southern Politics* (1976), 3-56, 57-368, 369-91, 397-408, 411-83

**MAR 27: SECOND TEST**

**APR 1 - APR 3: CHANGES IN U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE ELECTIONS, 1960-1990**

Black and Black, *Rise of Southern Republicans*, 72-204

Richard F. Fenno, Jr., *Congress at the Grassroots* (2000)

**APR 8 - APR 10: SOUTHERN POLITICS IN THE 1980s and 1990s (I)**

Alexander P. Lamis, ed., *Southern Politics in the 1990s* (1999), 1-49, 50-220

**APR 15 - APR 17: SOUTHERN POLITICS IN THE 1980s and 1990s (II)**

Lamis, ed., *Southern Politics in the 1990s*, 221-376, 377-406

**APR 22 - APR 29: SOUTHERN POLITICS TODAY**

Black and Black, *Rise of the Southern Republicans*, 1-39, 205-404

**MAY 6 (2:00 p.m.): FINAL EXAMINATION**