

**Southern Politics**  
Spring 2013  
Brandon Davis  
Syllabus subject to change.

**Office Hours**

Wednesdays 11:30 - 1, Thursdays 9 - 10:30, and by appointment.

**Prerequisites**

From the Student Records System  
No prerequisites found.

**Course Description**

This course attempts to describe, explain, and examine the consequences of the massive changes in Southern political life between the late 1940s and the present day, particularly the mobilization and empowerment of African-Americans and Republicans replacing Democrats as the region's dominant party. Both mass and elite opinion and behavior, as well institutions, will be examined.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1.) Provide an overview of the Southern political landscape at the time of VO Key's 1949 classic *Southern Politics in State and Nation*, including the importance of racial threat and the mechanisms by which voters were disenfranchised.
- 2.) Discuss the various social, political, and economic factors that caused the transformation of the South from a segregationist, economically stagnant region to a more diverse, economically dynamic one.
- 3.) Critically evaluate competing political scientists' hypotheses concerning the reason for the decline of Democratic dominance and the emergence of Republican dominance.
- 4.) Assess the historical and contemporary contribution of the South to the national political landscape, particularly in Congress and presidential elections.
- 5.) Understand the difficulties and issues involved in measuring some of the key concepts in the study of Southern politics and testing theories concerning Southern politics.
- 6.) Formulate views, based on evidence, regarding the question of whether the South is still politically distinctive relative to the rest of the USA.

## Outline of Topics

No exact dates are given due to the difficulty of predicting how long things will take. However, we will proceed in the order listed below, without skipping topics; if we don't have enough time for everything, it will be the material at the end that gets cut off. Also, both in class and in Blackboard Learn, I will give regular updates about what we are currently covering and what reading you should be doing. I will also give ample warning about what lecture material and readings will be on each test.

I. Introducing the Question: Is Southern Politics Still Distinctive? READING: VO Key, Chapter 1 ("Of the South")

II. The Making of a Classic; VO Key's State Profiles READING: VO Key, pp. xxi - xlii ("Introduction," "VO Key A Brief Profile"); Preface READING: VO Key, Chapter 3 ("Alabama"), plus ONE MORE state chapter of the student's choosing

III. One-Party Politics and the Politics of Disenfranchisement READING: VO Key, Chapters 13 (Republicans), 14 (One-Party Factionalism), 25 (Suffrage Restrictions), 26 (Literacy Test), 27 & 28 (Poll Tax)

IV. What Key Left Out; What Changed and Why: Demographics, Economics, and Civil Rights READING: VO Key Chapter 30 (Suffrage Crisis) and 31 (Is There a Way Out?) READING: Lublin Chapter 1 (Introduction)

V. Here Come the Republicans: Top-Down/Slo-Mo Realignment, Elites and Masses READING: Lublin Chapters 2 (Pace), 3 (Elites), 7 (White Partisanship)

VI. Here Come the Republicans: Institutions, Racial Context, and the Ongoing Political Science Debate READING: Lublin Chapters 4 (Institutions) and 5 (Racial Context) READING: Shafer and Johnston, Chapter 6 (AVAILABLE ON ELEARNING) READING: Hood, Kidd, and Morris, Chapter 3 (AVAILABLE ON ELEARNING)

VII. The South in Congressional and Presidential Politics: READING: VO Key Chapters 15 (Presidential Elections), 16 (Senate) and 17 (House)

VIII. "The Mind of the South": Racial Attitudes, Conservatism, and the Culture of Honor READING: WJ Cash, "The Mind of the South" (AVAILABLE ON ELEARNING) READING: Nisbett and Cohen, *Culture of Honor* book, ENTIRE!

IX. Religion and Politics in the South X. Southern Governors and State Legislatures READING: Scher "Political Leadership: Southern Governors" (AVAILABLE ON ELEARNING)

XI. Public Policy in the South: Highlights from Student Research A Return to the Question: Is Southern Politics Still Distinctive?

## Exams and Assignments

**MIDTERM EXAM** (Format: essays consisting of one long or two short-to-medium paragraphs). **Wednesday, February 27**, in class. Worth 35% of course grade.

**TERM PAPER** (Comparative policy analysis; assignment **details posted February 1st**). **Proposal (1-2 pp.) due March 15th (worth 5% of course grade); completed paper (9 - 10 pp.) due April 19th** (worth 20% of course grade). The proposal is required as a separate assignment; if no proposal is submitted by March 15th that 5% of the course grade will be a zero no matter how high the final paper grade is.

**FINAL EXAM Friday, May 3rd**, at 3:30 pm. Worth 35% of course grade.

**IN-CLASS OPEN-BOOK QUIZZES/EXERCISES** (Format: short essay. These will be given at **six randomly selected times** throughout the semester; the top four quiz grades will count toward the student's grade). Worth 5% of course grade.

## Grading Policy

The student's final course grade will be computed as follows:  $.35$  (MIDTERM EXAM GRADE) +  $.35$  (FINAL EXAM GRADE) +  $.05$  (PAPER PROPOSAL GRADE) +  $.20$  (TERM PAPER GRADE) +  $.05$  (AVERAGE OF BEST FOUR QUIZ GRADES)

## Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

- 1.) Makeup exams for the midterm exam and/or final exam will be allowed **ONLY** in cases of **EXTERNALLY DOCUMENTED** illness or family emergency, **OR** an **EXTERNALLY DOCUMENTED** University-sanctioned event or competition in which one's presence is **REQUIRED** for participation in a University course or official University activity. Travel for individual or family vacations is **NOT** an acceptable excuse for missing an exam, and makeups will not be allowed in such situations.
- 2.) Because every student can miss two quizzes without any grade penalty whatsoever, makeups for quizzes will **ONLY** be allowed in cases of **EXTERNALLY DOCUMENTED** severe student illness or family emergency **REQUIRING ABSENCE FROM CLASS FOR MORE THAN THREE WEEKS**.
- 3.) Because students have an extensive amount of time in which to complete their paper proposals and papers, and because they are allowed to submit paper proposals and papers by email if they must be absent from class, **ALL LATE PAPER PROPOSALS AND PAPERS** will be subject to a **GRADE PENALTY** commensurate with the degree of lateness. Exceptions to this policy may only be made in cases of extended student physical incapacitation.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance per se will not be taken, nor is attendance an official part of the grade. However, the randomly scheduled in-class quizzes/exercises (see "Exams and Assignments" and "Grading Policy" section), which are collectively worth 5% of the student's course grade, are intended as an indirect way to motivate and reward good attendance.

### **Required Texts**

- **KEY / SOUTHERN POLITICS IN STATE & NATION**<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub><sup>[L]</sup>*(Required)*
- **NISBETT / CULTURE OF HONOR**<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub><sup>[L]</sup>*(Required)*
- **LUBLIN / REPUBLICAN SOUTH**<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub><sup>[L]</sup>*(Required)*

### **Extra Credit Opportunities**

NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS will be given or accepted.

### **Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

[The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy](#) will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

### **Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

### **Severe Weather Protocol**

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar, sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

**When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:**

Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students ([sign up at myBama](#))

- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
  - Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisories are broadcast via WUOA/WVUA-TV, which can be viewed across Central Alabama. Also, visit [wuatv.com](http://wuatv.com) for up-to-the-minute weather information. A mobile Web site is also available for your convenience.