

# POS 3173: Southern Politics

MWF 9:35-10:25am



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Office: Anderson 201B  
Hours: W 10:45am-12:00pm or by appt.

## Course Description:

Southern politics has been a key component in American political development. The success of the Progressive Movement, the New Deal, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Republican Revolution have all depended on some level of southern cooperation as the southern bloc in Congress largely dictated public policy for the better part of the 20th century. Likewise, the mood of the southern electorate played a major part in presidential election outcomes.

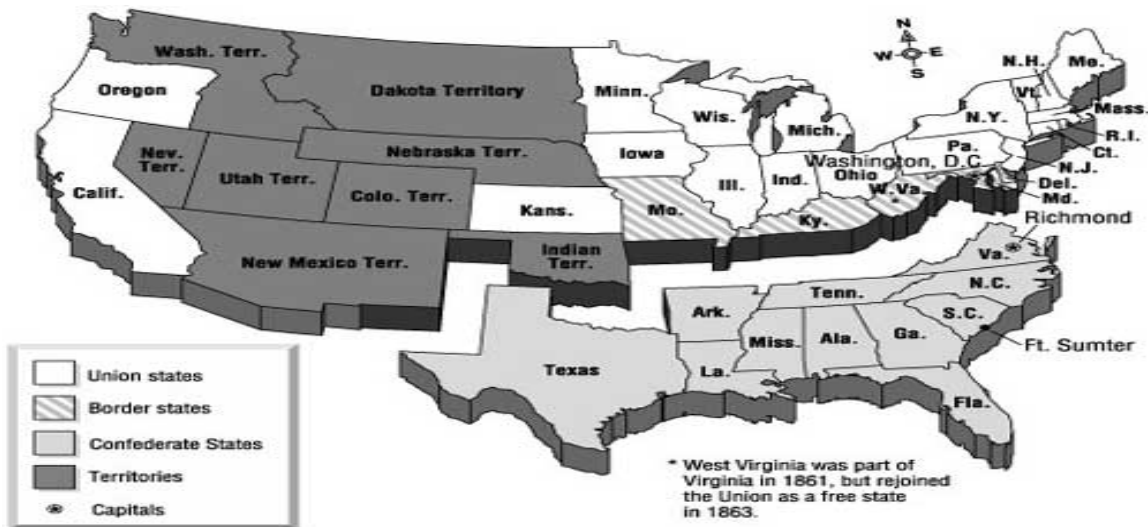


Photo from <http://uwsslec.libguides.com>

Political development in the South has been transformational at the national and subnational level with significant variation across time and region. Therefore, we will survey the history of the U.S. south from 1877 across the 11 states of the Confederacy and through three distinct periods: the Old “New South” (1877-1953), the South in Transition (1953-1980), and the New “New South” (1980-present).

The aim of this course is to assess the mechanisms by which southern elites maintained power for so long, how lower and middle class whites understood their own political and economic interests, and why Civil Rights continue to be challenged in the 21st century. Similarly, we will tackle the claims presented by recent research that suggests southern exceptionalism has ended or that it may have never existed.

## Required Textbooks:

Black, Earl and Merle Black. 1987. *Politics and Society in the South*  
Bullock, Charles S. III and Mark J. Rozell. 2013. *The New Politics of the Old South*  
Key, V.O., Jr. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*  
Woodward, C. Vann. 1955. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*

Students are also required to keep up with state and national news coverage related to Southern Politics for their blog project (discussed below). I also encourage students to regularly read [The Bitter Southerner \(@bittersouth\)](#) for fascinating stories regarding southern culture, history, and politics.

## Course Assignments:

- **Exams (15% each):** You will have three exams in the course. The exams will consist of essay questions and identification questions – i.e. short answer question where students give a definition or explanation of a term or concept presented in class and/or course readings.
- **Research Paper (30%):** You have three options: (1) an original research paper with the consent of the instructor, (2) a historical narrative expanding on any of the topics we discuss over the semester, or (3) an analytical paper answering the question(s) “Was the south ever exceptional? If so, has southern exceptionalism ended?” Research papers will **NOT EXCEED** 15 pages and will be graded in three parts:
  - Proposal (5%, due 05 OCT)
  - Draft (10%, due 24 NOV)
  - Final Paper (15%, due 09 DEC)
- **Blog Project (25%):** Students will create and maintain a blog for the duration of the course. Blog posts should connect current events with knowledge acquired in class and/or through personal experience and be 350-500 words in length (excluding quoted material from external sources). Your blog should be created and the link submitted to Canvas **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**. You are encouraged, but not required, to engage with your fellow classmates by commenting on their blog posts.

## Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 92.5	A	72.5 - 76.49	C
89.5 - 92.49	A-	69.5 - 72.49	C-
86.5 - 89.49	B+	66.5 - 69.49	D+
82.5 - 86.49	B	62.5 - 66.49	D
79.5 - 82.49	B-	59.5 - 62.49	D-
76.5 - 79.49	C+	<= 59.49	F

## Important Dates:

28 AUG	Drop/Add Ends
07 SEP	NO CLASS: Labor Day
23 SEP	Exam 1
05 OCT	Prospectus Due
23 OCT	Exam 2
06 NOV	NO CLASS: Homecoming
11 NOV	NO CLASS: Veteran's Day
24 NOV	First Draft Due
25 NOV	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving
27 NOV	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving
09 DEC	Final Draft Due
11 DEC	NO CLASS: Reading Day
17 DEC	Exam 3

## Course Policies:

- **Attendance Policy:** I will not take attendance in this course. However, this is a lecture intensive course and you will be responsible for any material missed. Make-up quizzes and exams will not be administered unless student presents required documentation for excused absence.
- **Electronic Devices:** Students are required to keep all electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, and computers) off and out of sight during class lectures, unless there is permission in advance from the instructor. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning for the first offense and a deduction in course grade for subsequent offenses.
- **Communication:** Students needing to contact me should do so by email. I check my email twice per day and will respond to all emails within 24 hours.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Students may not engage in any activity which the instructor deems disruptive or counterproductive to the goals of the class (e.g. habitual tardiness, talking out of turn, and disrespecting classmates/instructor). The instructor reserves the right to remove offending students from class. Repetition of the offense may result in expulsion from the course.

- **Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.
- **Academic Misconduct:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. Academic honesty is expected, and the instructor reserves the right to respond to cheating, plagiarizing, or other forms of unethical behavior with penalties up to and including removal from the class and/or failure in the course. The instructor also reserves the right to make necessary adjustments to the syllabus.

## Course Outline:

The following outline is tentative. The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the reading assignments. The readings listed in the “Readings” column should be completed **PRIOR** to the beginning of class.

Included in the schedule are three sets of “Research Meetings” each spanning two days. These meetings are scheduled to give you the opportunity to meet with me one-on-one to discuss your research project and any problems you have with the assignment. I will set up an appointment scheduling system prior to the first set so that you can make an appointment electronically. Research meetings are mandatory. Failure to make an appointment or keep your scheduled appointment will result in a reduction of points from your research paper grade.

Week	Date	Readings	Topic
	08/24	<i>Course Introduction</i>	
1	08/26	Key Ch. 1 & Woodward Intro	Of the South
	08/28	Woodward Chs. 1-3	Origins of Jim Crow
2	08/31	Key Chs. 13-14	Post-Reconstruction South
	09/02	Key Chs. 15-17	Political Leadership
	09/04	Key Chs. 18-20	Campaigns and Elections
	09/07	<i>No Class – Labor Day</i>	
3	09/09	Key Chs. 21-22	Campaigns and Elections (cont'd)
	09/11	Key Chs. 23-24	Southern Voters
4	09/14	Key Chs. 25-26	Suffrage Restrictions
	09/16	Key Chs. 27-28	Poll Taxes
	09/18	Key Chs. 29-30	White Primary

Week	Date	Readings	Topic
5	09/21	Key Ch. 31	Hope for the South?
	09/23		<b>Exam 1</b>
	09/25		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
6	09/28		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
	09/30		<i>Rosewood</i>
	10/02		<i>Rosewood</i>
7	10/05	Black & Black Chs. 1-3	The Changing South
	10/07	Black & Black Ch. 4, Woodward Ch. 4	Race Relations
	10/09	Woodward Chs. 5-6	Race Relations (cont'd)
8	10/12	Black & Black Ch. 5-7	Race Relations
	10/14	Black & Black Ch. 8-9	The Southern Electorate
	10/16	Black & Black Ch. 10-11	The Southern Electorate (cont'd)
9	10/19	Black & Black Ch. 12-13	Toward a Two-Party South
	10/21	Black & Black Ch. 14	Mapping the Future
	10/23		<b>Exam 2</b>
10	10/26		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
	10/28		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
	10/30	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 1	The Modern South
11	11/02	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 2, Key Ch. 7	South Carolina
	11/04	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 3, Key Ch. 6	Georgia
	11/06		<i>No Class – Homecoming</i>
12	11/09	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 4, Key Ch. 3	Alabama
	11/11		<i>No Class – Veteran's Day</i>
	11/13	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 5, Key Ch. 11	Louisiana
12	11/16	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 6, Key Ch. 6	Mississippi
	11/18	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 12, Key Ch. 12	Texas
	11/20		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
13	11/23		<i>No Class – Research Meetings</i>
	11/25		<i>No Class – Thanksgiving</i>
	11/27		<i>No Class – Thanksgiving</i>
14	11/30	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 9, Key Ch. 9	Arkansas
	12/02	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 8, Key Ch. 4	Tennessee
	12/04	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 7, Key Ch. 10	North Carolina
15	12/07	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 6, Key Ch. 2	Virginia
	12/09	Bullock & Rozell Ch. 11, Key Ch. 5	Florida
	12/11		<i>No Class – Reading Day</i>
16	12/17		<b>Final Exam – 12:30pm</b>