

POLITICS 205
Southern Politics
Fall Semester 2007

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Office Hours: M, Tu, W, and Th 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The South remains the most distinctive region of the United States. Providing an understanding of the important political tendencies of the contemporary South is the main purpose of this course. We shall identify and analyze important changes and continuities in the region's social order, economy, race relations, and mass public opinion over time, and then relate these changes and continuities to the most salient characteristics of the "new" southern politics. The objective of the course is that this knowledge will give you critical insight into the practice of southern politics at present and as the politics of the region evolve in the years to come.

Required Texts:

1. Earl Black and Merle Black, Politics and Society in the South (Despite its age, it remains the best text on contemporary southern politics.)
2. Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi (A first hand account of the conditions under which African-American southerners lived in the mid-Twentieth Century and a view of the civil rights movement from the perspective of a young activist "in the trenches" in the Deep South.)

The other required readings are on reserve in Bailey Library or are available online.

In addition, students are required to subscribe to the *New York Times* (Monday-Friday). Current political events (particularly related to the South's role in national politics, ongoing elections in the region, contemporary race relations, etc.) will be discussed throughout the course of the term and students should be informed on them.

Grading: Course grades will be determined by one midterm examination, a final examination, a paper that analyzes the political history of a particular southern state, and participation in class discussions.

1. Midterm examination (Tuesday, October 9): 25% of final grade. Both this and the final exam will consist of a combination of essay and identification questions.

2. Paper (10-12 pages, typed, double-spaced) on the political history of an individual southern state. See attached description for more information. (Due November 30th at 5:00 p.m.): 30% of final grade.

3. Final examination: 35% of final grade.

4. Class presence and participation: 10% of final grade.

Makeup examinations: Only extreme emergencies will be accepted as an excuse for taking either exam at a time other than the scheduled time. **Do not assume that the Registrar's Office will inform me of your being sick. If you want me to know of an illness, please leave a message on my office voice mail or send one via e-mail.**

Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day.

All work during this term will be guided by the Hendrix College Statement of Academic Integrity as presented in the Student Handbook. On all written work submitted throughout the term, please include a signed version of the following pledge: *"I have not received inappropriate assistance on this assignment."*

It is the policy of Hendrix College to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student who needs accommodation in relation to a recognized disability should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. In order to receive accommodations, students with disabilities are required to contact Julie Brown in Academic Support Services at 501-505-2954.

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

August 23-September 13 [NO CLASS: August 30]

The "Old" Southern Politics

- A. V.O. Key, Jr., Southern Politics in State and Nation, 3-12, 664-675
- B. Black and Black, 3-22, 75-82
- C. Lawrence Goodwyn, "Populist Dreams and Negro Rights"
- D. Nicholas Lemann, The Promised Land, 3-58
- E. William Anderson, The Wild Man from Sugar Creek, 62-97

September 24-October 2

The Rise of a (Sub)Urbanized New Middle Class

- A. Black and Black, 23-72, 213-231
- B. Peter Applebome, Dixie Rising: How the South Is Shaping American Values, Politics, and Culture, 24-55, 183-209
- C. John M. Coski, The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem, 217-307

October 9-30 [NO CLASS October 11 (Fall Break)]

The Transformation of Race Relations

- A. Black and Black, 82-171, 195-212
- B. Moody, all
- C. Jason Sokol, There Goes My Everything: White Southerners in the Age of Civil Rights, 1945-1975, 182-237
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson, "Address on Voting Rights (1965)"
- E. Matthew D. Lassiter, The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South, 198-221

November 1-8: **The New Southern Electorate**

- A. Earl Black and Merle Black, The Rise of Southern Republicans, 241-267
- B. James M. Glaser, The Hand of the Past in Contemporary Southern Politics, 49-87
- C. JoAnn Wypijewski, "Black and Bruised"
- D. Lyman A. Kellstedt, James L. Guth, John C. Green, and Corwin E. Smidt, "The Soul of the South: Religion and Southern Politics in the Twenty-first Century"

November 13-20: **The South in Presidential Politics**

- A. Dan T. Carter, "The Politics of Rage"
- B. Black and Black, The Rise of Southern Republicans, 205-240
- C. Laurence W. Moreland and Robert P. Steed, "The 2004 Election and Southern Politics"
- D. Thomas F. Schaller, Whistling Past Dixie: How Democrats Can Win Without the South, 1-20

November 22

NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

November 27-29

The Changing Party System Below the Presidential Level in the South and a Look at Individual Southern States

A. J. David Woodard, The New Southern Politics, 215-247

B. Paul Luebke, Tar Heel Politics 2000, 19-46

C. Diane D. Blair and Jay Barth, Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule?, Second ed., 60-94

November 30, 5:00 p.m.: **Paper Due**

PAPER ASSIGNMENT

This paper on the political history, culture, and personalities of a particular southern state should be about 10-12 typed, double-spaced pages. It is due on November 30th. I will ask for your preference of the state you would like to analyze and assign approximately the same number of students to each state.

First, you should read the chapter on your state in V.O. Key's Southern Politics in State and Nation (1949) which is on reserve in Bailey Library. Essentially, your assignment is to update--although in a relatively brief number of pages--Key's work. Although I urge you to *be creative in organizing and in developing a theme for the paper*, there are a few questions that you might want to consider:

Why have been the key figures in the state's politics since Key wrote his book at mid-century and what was their impact on the state's politics? In particular, you should consider the present governor, U.S. Senators, and key members of the state's U.S. House delegation. What are their bases of political support? Do these men and women represent or contradict the state's political traditions? [For this section of the paper, I would strongly urge you to use the appropriate sections of the 2006 editions of Almanac of American Politics and Congressional Quarterly's Politics in America (These are also on reserve) as sources].

What are the key geographical, social, and economic divisions in the state's political patterns? Here I would strongly encourage you to employ analyses of maps of election returns and other important political phenomena.

How deeply has the rise of the Republican Party affected the state's politics? What is the present partisan balance in the state and how well organized are the two parties? What do the results of the most recent elections have to say about the future prospects of the parties in the state?

What role do labor unions, business groups, and other interest groups play in shaping the state's politics and government?

Has corruption been noticeably present or absent in the government of the state and what is the attitude towards corruption in the state?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO ADDRESS ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS! THESE ARE SIMPLY THE TYPE OF QUESTIONS THAT MAKE SENSE TO ADDRESS. Again, it is crucial to develop *your own theme* that organizes the paper. A strong paper will have a strong, creative organizing theme.

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There are a number of sources on the politics of each state available in Bailey Library and in other local libraries. If you are having difficulty finding sources for your particular state, SEE ME!!! Some other more general sources that you might find particularly helpful [and which are on reserve]:

Dewey Grantham, The Life and Death of the Solid South [His bibliography at the end of the book is very good.]

Charles S. Bullock III and Mark J. Rozell, The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics, 3rd Edition.

Jack Bass and Walter DeVries, The Transformation of Southern Politics

Alexander P. Lamis, The Two-Party South

Alexander P. Lamis, ed., Southern Politics in the 1990s

Neil R. Peirce and Jerry Hagstrom, The Book of America

Laurence W. Moreland, Robert P. Steed, and Tod A. Baker, eds., The 1988 Presidential Election in the South

Robert P. Steed, Laurence W. Moreland, and Tod A. Baker, eds., The 1992 Presidential Election in the South

Laurence W. Moreland and Robert P. Steed, eds., The 1996 Presidential Election in the South

Robert P. Steed and Laurence W. Moreland, The 2000 Presidential Election in the South

Special edition of the American Review of Politics (Spring/Summer 2005) on the 2004 presidential election in the region.

Finally, a number of internet sites are helpful for current information on the states. While it is clearly important to use these sources, do not rely upon internet sources too much in your research and writing.

USE OF SOURCE MATERIALS

Correct use and acknowledgment of source materials is vital to any research project. Only through accurate documentation can the reader distinguish the writer's original contribution from those of others. This allows the reader (1) to consult the source of a fact or opinion if he or she so desires and (2) to assign credit or blame judiciously--to the writer or to the writer's sources. Moreover, failure to acknowledge source material properly constitutes plagiarism and is subject to the appropriate penalties.

The basic rule is this: If you use material drawn from something beside your own first-hand experience, and the material is not "common knowledge," that is, something that "everybody knows," give credit to your source.

Even if the material is "common knowledge" but you are getting it from a specific source, acknowledge that source.

If you quote directly, even a word or phrase, use quotation marks and acknowledge the source in a parenthetical citation, a footnote, or an endnote.

If you paraphrase (i.e. take the ideas and put them into your own words), acknowledge the source in a parenthetical citation, a footnote, or an endnote.

If you organize material in the unique manner of someone else, give that person credit in the text and, usually, in a citation as well.

A good rule of thumb to ask yourself: "Could a reader who consulted the books listed in my bibliography recognize in my paper sentences, phrases, and even striking words; patterns of organizations; interpretations or attitudes or points of view or whole ideas or facts, as deriving from any one of these sources?" If the reader could, you must footnote those passages. Any clear parallels between your paper and any of its sources which a reader would discover from consulting these sources, you should already have told him or her through citations or informal acknowledgments in the text.

If you borrow everything in your paper, include a citation for everything in your paper!

Once your paper is turned in, the reader has the right to assume that whatever appears in the paper, unless otherwise indicated, is your own work or is "common knowledge."

It should be noted that a paper which is merely a patchwork of other people's words and ideas is a poor paper. Because of the particular slant on the topic which you have been asked to consider; because of the particular combination of sources you have consulted; because of the independence of your own creative mind, your paper should be organically different from any of the various sources which have contributed to it.