SYLLABUS

This course focuses on modern southern politics. The focus on the modern era means that we will be concerned with the post-civil rights period of southern politics, which is roughly the last 40-45 years. The South has long been the most fascinating region of the country for political scientists to study, and the modern South is no exception. What makes the South so interesting to study is the enormous political change that has taken place in the region. The nature, sources, and consequences of that change are the primary concerns of this course.

While we will be concerned with the entire eleven-state South, this course will look at politics in North Carolina as a case study of southern political change. In many ways, change in North Carolina reflects change that has occurred throughout the South. Still, every southern state has its own particular pattern of change, and this course will emphasize the comparative study of political change in the South. In particular, you will be expected to choose a southern state other than North Carolina and to become especially familiar with politics in that state. Thus, this course will provide you with an overview of the entire South and an in-depth look at two southern states.

Although the focus in on modern southern politics, it is essential to understand the historical foundations of the contemporary South, so we will devote some time to this topic. Also, the economic, social, and cultural influences on politics are important to an understanding of southern politics, so we will devote time to this topic as well. This means that there is a significant interdisciplinary aspect to this course, and you should be able to relate information that you have obtained from relevant courses in history, sociology, and economics to the material that we cover in this course.

Finally, this course is a companion to PSC 332 (Voting and Elections) and PSC 327 (American Political Parties). These courses are designed to complement each other, but any one of them can be taken without having taken any of the others. Also, this course overlaps PSC 322 (American State Politics), which also may be of interest to students desiring work in this area. PSC 330 (Internship in Campaigns and Elections), which provides students with the opportunity to be directly involved in election campaigns, is another related course that may be of interest to students interested in political parties and electoral politics.

Course Goals

As a result of taking this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and discuss the social, economic, and historical foundations of modern southern politics.
2. Interpret the political change that has taken place in southern politics over the past several decades, particularly as it relates to electoral politics.
3. Analyze and discuss the current dynamics in southern politics.
4. Identify similarities and differences between North Carolina politics and politics in other southern states.
5. Engage in comparative analysis of electoral politics across the eleven southern states.
Books

There are two texts for the course; both are available at the bookstore in paperback editions:


Reserve Readings

This is a reading intensive course. A considerable portion of the reading for this course is on library reserve. Some of the items are available through the e-reserve system (these are marked in the syllabus as “ER”), but some of the readings are available only in the library, where they are held under closed library reserve (these are marked as “CR”). If you do not like to spend time in the library reading, this is not a good course for you to take. Similarly, if you dislike having to read a large number of e-reserve items, this is the wrong course for you.

Items on library e-reserve (designated ER in the syllabus):

Buchanan, Scott, and Branwell Debose Kapeluck. 2014. Second Verse, Same as the First: The 2012 Presidential Election in the South, chpt. 10. (Entire book is on CR)
Eamon, Tom. 2014. The Making of a Southern Democracy, chpts. 11, 12.
Key, V.O. 1949. Southern Politics, chpts. 1, 10, 14. (Entire book is on CR)
Reed, John Shelton. 1993. My Tears Spoiled My Aim, pp. 5-64.

Four books are on closed library reserve (designated CR in the syllabus):
- Key, Southern Politics.
- Bass and DeVries, The Transformation of Southern Politics.
- Kapeluck et al., A Paler Shade of Red: The 2008 Presidential Election in the South.
- Buchanan and Kapeluck, Second Verse, Same as the First: The 2012 Presidential Election in the South.

Also, look at Barone et al., The Almanac of American Politics 2014 (in the reference department).

Each of the above books has a chapter on each southern state. These are books that you should refer to for additional information on the state that you have chosen to focus on for the course. The book by Key covers the era of the Solid South; the book by Bass and DeVries covers the civil rights era; the book by Kapeluck et al. covers the 2008 election; the book by Buchanan and Kapeluck covers the 2012 election; and the book by Barone et al. covers politics (especially congressional elections) through 2012. The chapters in these books, along with the material on your state in the two course textbooks, should give you more detailed knowledge of North Carolina and the other southern state that you are focusing on.

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course and their contribution to the final grade are as follows:

1. An in-class essay exam, following topic B and tentatively scheduled for September 14 (10% of the final grade).
2. An in-class essay exam, following topic C and tentatively scheduled for September 30 (10% of the final grade).
3. An in-class essay exam, following topic E and tentatively scheduled for October 26 (15% of the final grade).
4. An in-class final exam, scheduled for December 7, counting 30% toward the final grade.
5. Reading summaries. There will be 20 reading summaries assigned, and your best 10 will count toward the final grade (20% of the final grade)
6. Class participation, including both general participation in class discussions and informal presentations on politics in your state, counting 15% toward the final grade.

Course Policies

1. While attendance is necessary for earning a good grade on class participation, it is not sufficient. To do well on this component, you should participate in class discussions and ask relevant questions. Furthermore, in order for you to participate intelligently in class discussions, you need to complete the assigned readings in a timely fashion. Read and think about the material, and come to class prepared to talk about it. You also should be prepared to provide examples and information from the
state that you have chosen to focus on.

2. You are expected to follow appropriate classroom etiquette. Among other things, this means that you should arrive on time (the class starts at 11:00, not 11:05 or 11:10), should turn off your cell phone, and should not bring your breakfast or lunch to eat during the class session (a beverage is fine).

3. You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy for all work submitted in this course.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

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<th><strong>DATES</strong></th>
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<td>A. Introduction: Studying</td>
<td>Aug. 17-19</td>
<td>Bullock and Rozell, introduction</td>
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<td>Southern Politics</td>
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**I. The Background and Setting of Southern Politics**

B. Historical foundations

1. The 19th century South Aug. 21-24 Woodard, chpt. 2 (pp. 25-46), chpt. 4 (pp. 131-148)

2. The Solid South Aug. 26-28 Woodard, chpt. 2 (pp. 46-56), chpt. 4 (148-157), chpt. 8 (327-337), chpt. 9 (355-364) Key, chpts. 1, 10, 14 (ER); state chapter (CR)

3. The civil rights era Aug. 31- Sept. 11 Woodard, chpt. 2 (pp. 56-62), chpt. 4 (157-168) Scher, chpts. 6, 7, 8 (ER) Bass and DeVries, chpts. 10 (ER); state chapter (CR) Bullock and Gaddie, chpt. 12 (ER)

**First Exam** September 14

C. Southern economy, society, and culture

1. Southern economy Sept. 16-21 Woodard, chpt. 3 Scher, chpt. 2 (ER) Fleischmann, “Urbanization of the South” (ER) McManus, “The South’s Changing Demographics” (ER)

2. Southern culture Sept. 23-28 Reed (1995), pp. 3-56 (ER) Reed (1993), pp. 5-64 (ER) Woodard, chpt. 9 (pp. 364-381) Breaux and Shaffer “Southern Attitudes” (ER)

**Second Exam** September 30
II. Patterns of Republican Growth in Southern Elections

D. Republican success at different office levels

1. Presidential elections Oct. 2 Stanley, “Presidential Elections...” (ER)
2. Congressional elections Oct. 5 Woodard, chpt. 6
3. State elections Oct. 7 Woodard, chpt. 8 (pp. 337-353)
Aistrup, chpt. 3 (ER)

E. Republican success in individual southern states

1. North Carolina Oct. 9-14 Woodard, chpt. 7 (parts on NC)
Bullock and Rozell, chpt. 7
Eamon, chpts. 11, 12 (ER)

2. The Deep South Oct. 16-19 Woodard, chpt. 7 (parts on AL, GA, LA, MS, SC)
Bullock and Rozell, chpts. 1-5

3. The Rim South Oct. 21-23 Woodard, chpt. 7 (parts on AR, FL, TN, TX, VA)
Bullock and Rozell, chpts. 6, 8, 9, 11, 12

Third Exam October 26

III. Sources and Dynamics of Electoral Change in the Modern South

F. Sources of political change in the South

1. Race and race-related issues Oct. 28-30 Woodard, chpt. 4 (pp. 168-181)
Black and Black, chpt. 7 (ER)
Aistrup et al., “The Legacy of Race...” (ER)
Stanley, “The Latino Vote in 2008” (ER)

2. Religion and religious issues Nov. 2-4 Bullock and Rozell, chpt. 13
Woodard, chpt. 5

3. Social class and economic issues Nov. 6-9 Black and Black, chpt. 8 (ER)

4. Party and ideology Nov. 11-13 Abramowitz and Knotts, “Ideological
Realignment...” (ER)
Prysby, “Southern Political Party Development
Since World War II” (ER)
Prysby, “The Reshaping of the Political Party
System in North Carolina” (ER)

5. Generational change Nov. 16 Knuckey, “Generational Changes” (ER)
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<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>G. Dynamics of Republican growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Presidential elections</td>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Bruce, “The Republican South” (ER)</td>
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<td>Buchanan and Kapeluck, chpt. 10 (ER); state chpt. (CR)</td>
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<td>2. Congressional elections</td>
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<td>3. State elections</td>
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<td>IV. Conclusion</td>
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<td>H. The future of the New South</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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