

POLS 4241: SOUTHERN POLITICS

TR 9:30-10:45

A & S 2-40



Prof. Keith Lee

A & S 2-09

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

10:45-12:00

or by appointment.

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.

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:

Key. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*

Woodward. 1955. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*

Black & Black. 2002. *The Rise of Southern Republicans*

Bullock, Buchanan, & Gaddie. 2015. *The Three Governors Controversy*

Learning Objectives:

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

- Evaluate and analyze competing arguments regarding the post-Reconstruction South
- Elaborate on the conditions that produced subnational authoritarianism in the American South
- Examine the mechanisms by which the South overcame subnational authoritarianism.
- Compare the conditions of the post-Reconstruction South to the Newest South
- Evaluate claims that the South is either no longer exceptional or that it was never exceptional.

Course Requirements:

- **Quiz(zes):** I will give periodic pop quizzes over the assigned reading. The number of quizzes will depend on class engagement and participation. There will be at least one quiz.
- **Midterm Exam:** This exam covers the time period from 1877 to 1950. The exam will consist of identification (terms, people, and/or places), short answer, and at least one essay. A blue book is required for this exam.
- **Final Exam:** This exam covers the time period from 1950 to present day. The exam will consist of identification (terms, people, and/or places), short answer, and at least one essay. A blue book is required for this exam.
- **Paper:** You will be assigned a state and you will discuss the political development of the state from the Civil Rights movement in the 60s to the present period.
- **Paper Presentation:** You will give a presentation to the class on your state paper. The presentation should be 5-7 minutes long. The presentations will begin on March 28, the Tuesday following Spring Break.
- **Research Paper (Optional):** You can write an original research paper on a topic of your choice, approved by the professor. Students who choose this option do not have to give a presentation or submit state paper.

Grade Distribution:

Option A		Option B	
Reading Quiz(zes)	10 points	Reading Quiz(zes)	10 points
Midterm Exam	25 points	Midterm Exam	25 points
Final Exam	25 points	Final Exam	25 points
Paper Presentation	15 points	Research Paper Proposal	5 points
Paper	25 points	Research Paper	35 points
Total	100 points	Total	100 points

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 90 points	A
80 - 89 points	B
70 - 79 points	C
60 - 69 points	D
≤ 60 points	F

Course Policies:

- **Office Hours and Contact:** Office hours are stated on the front page of the syllabus. I will be in my office to assist students during the times listed UNLESS an emergency arises in which case I will send out a message via email. Students should contact me via email. Students will put their name, their course, and the subject in the subject line (e.g., Keith Lee – POLS 4241 – Question about the Syllabus).
- **Late Policy:** No assignments will be accepted after the due date. Every assignment will be posted with ample time to complete them, thus a medical/family emergency on the due date is not an acceptable excuse. Get your work done early and you should not have any issues.
- **Attendance and Absences:** There is not an attendance policy for this course, however it is the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials as the exams cover material from lectures and discussion sessions.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Instructors have the responsibility to set and maintain standards of classroom behavior appropriate to the discipline and method of teaching. Students may not engage in any activity which the instructor deems disruptive or counterproductive to the goals of the class, especially speaking while others are speaking. Disruptive behavior will result in the student being asked to leave.

- **Technology:** I have banned technology from my classrooms in the past, but I know how valuable technology can be in the note taking and learning process. Therefore, I am going to allow tablets and computers (no cell phones) in the classroom. However, I reserve the right to revoke this privilege in the event that it becomes a problem. Please sit in the back of the classroom if you are going to be using your laptop so that you do not distract your neighbor behind you when you inevitably stumble on Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, and any other sites that tempt you.

Georgia College Policies

- Please read: <http://intranet.gcsu.edu/common-syllabus-statements>

Important Dates:

01/11 Last Day to Add a Course
01/13 Last Day to Drop a Course
01/31 **Paper Proposals Due**
02/02 State Paper Assignments
02/27 **Book Review Due**
03/02 **Midterm Exam**
03/06 Last Day to Drop with a “W”
04/27 **Final Exam**
05/01 **Papers Due**

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 material listed in the “Reading” column should be read **PRIOR** to class.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
01	01/10	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	01/12	Of the South	Key Ch. 1 & Woodward Intro
02	01/17	Southern Identity Problem	Woodward Chs. 1-3
	01/19	Post-Reconstruction South	Key Chs. 13-14
03	01/24	Political Leadership	Key Chs. 15-17
	01/26	Campaigns & Elections	Key Chs. 18-20
04	01/31	Campaigns & Elections (cont'd)	Key Chs. 21-22
	02/02	Southern Voters	Key Chs. 23-24
05	02/07	Suffrage Restrictions	Key Chs. 25-26
	02/09	Poll Taxes	Key Chs. 27-28
06	02/14	White Primary & Supremacy	Key Chs. 29-30
	02/16	3 Governors	Bullock et al. Chs. Intro-2
07	02/21	3 Governors	Bullock et al. Chs. 3-4
	02/23	3 Governors	Bullock et al. Chs. 5-Epilogue
08	02/28	Exam Review	
	03/02	Midterm Exam	
09	03/07	The Southern Transformation	Black & Black Ch. 1
	03/09	Confronting the Democratic Juggernaut	Black & Black Ch. 2
10	03/14	The Promising Peripheral South	Black & Black Ch. 3
	03/16	The Impenetrable Deep South	Black & Black Ch. 4
SB	03/21	Spring Break-NO CLASS!	
	03/23	Spring Break-NO CLASS!	
11	03/28	The Democratic Smother	Black & Black Ch. 5
	03/30	The Democratic Domination	Black & Black Ch. 6
12	04/04	Reagan's Realignment of White Southerners	Black & Black Ch. 7
	04/06	A New Party System in the South	Black & Black Ch. 8
13	04/11	The Peripheral South Breakthrough	Black & Black Ch. 9
	04/13	The Deep South Challenge	Black & Black Ch. 10
14	04/18	The Republican Surge	Black & Black Ch. 11
	04/20	Competitive South, Competitive America	Black & Black Ch. 12
15	04/25	Course Conclusion and Exam Review	
	04/27	Final Exam	