

**Southern Politics:**  
**POL 333.001**  
**Mercer University**  
Department of Political Science, Fall 2007

<i>Instructor:</i>	Chris Grant, Ph.D. (478) 301-5519 (office) (478) 746-9992 (home) <a href="mailto:grant_jc@mercer.edu">grant_jc@mercer.edu</a> <a href="mailto:john.christopher.grant@gmail.com">john.christopher.grant@gmail.com</a>	<i>Class:</i>	Tu Th 10:50-12:05 Knight Hall 308
<i>Office Hrs:</i>	MW 4:15-5 p; Tu 1-4 p; W 11a -12 p Also, by appointment	<i>Facebook:</i>	John Christopher Grant
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This course in Southern Politics provides an overview of the politics in the eleven states of the former Confederacy over the last half century. The course examines both regional similarities and the inter-state differences. Heavy emphasis is given to the factors that have contributed the most to the region's changing politics – first, the emergence of a Republican challenge in what had been the solidly Democratic South and more recently GOP dominance in the region, along with the mobilization of a significant African-American political influence. The personalities and events shaping the political decisions in individual states and the influence that the South has exercised in national politics are examined. All reading assignments should be completed *before* the first day on which a topic is scheduled.

**Objectives and Description:** This course is a survey of the politics of the South. At the conclusion of the term we will have covered a variety of questions related to the region and its politics, including:

- What is the South? What does it mean to be a southerner?
- What is the “New South?”
- A survey of state politics in the region (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, and VA).
- Differences in political culture between “rim” and “deep” south states.
- The role of demagoguery in the politics of the region.
- The partisan nature of the region. Will the Republican realignment last? How can Democrats still win campaigns?
- The importance of the South in national politics. What is the role of southerners in Congress and in selecting the President?
- The role of race in southern politics with emphasis on the transforming nature of the 1960s.
- Are the politics of the South becoming more like the rest of the nation or are the politics of the rest of the nation becoming more like the South?

It is my conviction that the South presents right now the Nation's No. 1 economic problem — the Nation's problem, not merely the South's. For we have an economic unbalance in the Nation as a whole, due to this very condition of the South. It is an unbalance that can and must be righted, for the sake of the South and of the Nation. Without going into the long history of how this situation came to be — the long and ironic history of the despoiling of this truly American section of the country's population — suffice it for the immediate purpose to get a clear perspective of the task that is presented to us. There are questions of taxation, of education, of housing and of health. *President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938*

**Required Texts (4):**

Earl and Merle Black (BB). 2004. *The Rise of Southern Republicans* Belknap ISBN: 0674012488

Charles Bullock, and Mark Rozell (BR). 2006. *New Politics of the Old South*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Rowman & Littlefield ISBN: 0742553442

Melissa Greene (G). 2006. *Praying for Sheetrock* Da Capo Press ISBN: 0306815176

J. David Woodard. 2006. *The New Southern Politics*. Lynne Rienner ISBN: 1588263975

Recommended: V.O. Key, *Southern Politics* (on reserve)

Additional required reading is accessible through the class web or may be placed on reserve in the library. Students are responsible for these readings and any “handouts” given in class, as well.

### ***Points/Point Breakdown***

Assignment	%
Test 1	20
Test 2	20
Test 3	20
Paper (20% of grade will be for a 7 minute presentation of your major findings)	20
<u>Final Exam</u>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

***Final Course Grades are assigned according to the following criteria:***

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>Percentage of points obtained</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<b>A</b>	<b>4</b>	92.0 - 100%	Excellence in every facet, a model for future students
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.5</b>	88.0 - 91.9%	Very Good Work consistently exceeding basic expectations
<b>B</b>	<b>3</b>	82.0 - 87.9%	Good Work consistently exceeding basic expectations
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.5</b>	78.0 – 81.9%	Basic Competency with some good effects
<b>C</b>	<b>2</b>	70.0 - 77.9%	Basic Competency without severe deficiency
<b>D</b>	<b>1</b>	60.0 - 69.9%	Basic competency is achieved but with severe deficiency
<b>F</b>	<b>0</b>	0 - 59.9%	Work is too weak to receive credit for course

3 Tests will be given throughout the semester. Test formats may include multiple-choice, true-false, matching, short answer, terms for identification, maps, and essay questions. Good responses can include explanation, description, exemplification, elaboration, definition or description, but in any case should demonstrate the significance of the term to modern issues in Southern Politics. Questions are derived from readings, lectures, and discussions. Make-up tests are given only with prior clearance by the instructor and are usually given on the same day as the final examination.

Prior to mid-semester, you will receive feedback on your academic performance in this course.

Final Exam includes material covered since Test 3 as well as cumulative and comprehensive essay questions.

Term Papers should comply with the guidelines distributed at the start of the semester in conjunction with this syllabus.

Paper Proposals--all paper topics must be approved. Any papers submitted that have not been approved will not be graded. The paper proposal should provide enough detail for me to determine *what* you are going to write about and *how* you propose to go about it. This will take at least a paragraph and perhaps a page to set forth. You may include a statement of one or more hypotheses to be tested. Proposals are graded and will count as 5% of your grade on the term paper.

Paper Presentations are required of all students in the last two weeks of class. Students will be organized by the instructor into panels of 5-7 presentations per day and each presenter will have 7 minutes (and only seven minutes) to present the major findings of your research to the class. After all the presentations are made, the class will be asked to discuss the overall findings of the panel for the remaining time. Please think about the most important of your findings and present them clearly. If your presentation extends beyond seven minutes you will receive a zero for that part of your paper grade (practice and time yourself in advance). Presentations are graded and count 20% of your grade on the term paper. Material from the presentations will be used in creating your final exam in the class.

Writing Style The term papers **must be typed**. You should use a standard sized (10-12 point) font and be aware that grammar, spelling and punctuation errors will be penalized. Late assignments will be penalized for every twenty-four hours they are late. Please be careful to spell correctly and use complete sentences. It never hurts to proofread your work. Your work will also be graded on overall quality, logic, and merit.

Plagiarism This is, of course, cheating by not giving credit for ideas not original to you. It can take the form of "copying," not noting direct or paraphrased quotations, or even failing to provide an adequate

works cited list. Be careful to cite sources any time you borrow an idea or use another's work to make a point, even when it is the textbook from this class

### **Class Policies:**

**Honor Code** The Mercer Honor Code applies to all work completed in this class. Any class materials (tests, quizzes, papers, handouts) are not for broad distribution. If they are found in a "test file" it will be considered a violation of the honor code. I will actively pursue prosecution of violators through all means available at the university and students that cheat will fail the course. If you divulge the contents of class materials to those not having received credit for POL/AFR 330 you be considered as having violated the code.

*I pledge myself neither to give nor receive help during tests nor for any individual assignments or papers, nor to use any information other than that allowed by the instructor. I further pledge that I will not allow to go unreported to the proper persons any violations of the Honor Code and that I will give true and complete information before the Honor Council*

**Attendance** There is an attendance policy in this class. Roll is taken and more than five unexcused absences in this class will result in your failing the course—regardless of your scores on assignments. **YOU SHOULD COME TO CLASS!** In most cases empty seats do not absorb more material than do students. Empty seats do not participate better than students (though this is not true in certain cases). Empty seats certainly do not impress the instructor with your effort in his class. Exceptions to this policy are those absences documented through official communication and excused by the university.

**Cell Phones and Pagers** need to be turned off for our class.

**Accommodations:** Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting. The instructor will refer you to the Student Support Services office for consultation regarding evaluation, documentation of your disability, and a recommendation as to accommodation, if any, to be provided. Students must provide instructors with an accommodation form from Student Support Services listing reasonable accommodation to sign and return to Student Support Services. The Student Support Services office is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Connell Student Center.

In order to receive full use of services, students with documented disabilities should make arrangements with the Student Support Services Office at 301-2686 as soon as possible. Students with a documented disability who do not wish to receive services are also **strongly** encouraged to register with Student Support Services.

<b>CLASS SCHEDULE</b>					
	<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
<b>I. Them Other Places (Rim and Deep)</b>	<b>1</b>	Aug 21 & 23	The American South—what it is, what it was, and what it ain't...	BB 1-2 BR Introduction W 1-3 G prologue	
	<b>2</b>	Aug 28 & 30	Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina	BR 7, 9, & 11 BB 3	
	<b>3</b>	Sep 4 & 6	Tennessee, Texas, Virginia	BR 6, 8, & 12	
	<b>4</b>	Sep 11 & 13	Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina	BR 1, 3, & 4 BB 4	
	<b>5</b>	Sep 18 & 20	Louisiana	BR 5	<b>TEST 1 Sep. 20</b>
<b>II. Georgia, Georgia, Georgia</b>	<b>6</b>	Sep 25 & 27	Georgia Politics	BR 2 G part I	
	<b>7</b>	Oct 2 & 4	Georgia State & Local Government	G part II	<b>Paper Topics Due by 10/2</b>
	<b>8</b>	Oct 9 & 11	Georgia Realignment	G part III	
	<b>9</b>	Oct 16 & 18	Georgia Politics and Race	W 4	<b>TEST 2 Oct. 18</b>
<b>III. Issues and Southern Politics</b>	<b>10</b>	Oct 23 & 25	Theories of Partisan Realignment	BB 5-6 W 6	
	<b>11</b>	Oct 30 & Nov 1	Electoral Coalitions	BB 7-8 W 7-8	
	<b>12</b>	Nov 6 & 8	The South in Congress	BB 9-10 W 9-10	
	<b>13</b>	Nov 13 & 15	The Presidency & the South	BB 11	
	<b>14</b>	Nov 20	Religion and Politics in the South	BR Conclusion W 5	<b>Term Papers Due 11/20</b>
<b>IV. Looking Toward the Future</b>	<b>15</b>	Nov 27 & 29	Paper Presentations		<b>TEST 3 Nov. 27</b>
	<b>16</b>	Dec 4 & 6	Paper Presentations & Conclusion	BB 12 W 11	
<b>FINAL EXAM      DEC. 10      9:00 am      🎉🎉🎉</b>					