

Political Science 328  
North Carolina and Southern Politics  
Fall, 2007  
MWF, 11:00-11:50  
209 Graham

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## 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 35 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, the research paper for this course will require you to compare politics in North Carolina with politics in another southern 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 is 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 (Workshop in Practical Politics), 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 50 years, 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 three texts for the course; all are available at the bookstore in paperback editions:

- Charles S. Bullock III and Mark J. Rozell (eds.), *The New Politics of the Old South*, 3rd ed., Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.  
 Richard K. Scher, *Politics in the New South*, 2nd ed., Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1997.  
 J. David Woodard, *The New Southern Politics*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2006.

## Reserve Readings

A considerable portion of the reading for this course is on library reserve. Some of the items are available through the on-line reserve system (these are marked below as “on-line”), but some of the readings are available only in the reserve room, where they are held under closed library reserve. If you do not like to spend time in the library reading, this is not a good course for you to take.

Items on closed library reserve:

- Bass, Jack, and Walter DeVries. 1976. *The Transformation of Southern Politics*.  
 Black, Earl, and Merle Black. 1992. *The Vital South* (chpts. 1, 2, 8, 11), on-line.  
 Black, Earl, and Merle Black. 2002. *The Rise of Southern Republicans* (chpts. 1, 7, 8, 11), on-line.  
 Cannon, David. 1999. *Race, Redistricting, and Representation* (chpts. 1, 6), on-line.  
 Key, V.O. 1949. *Southern Politics*.  
 Lamis, Alexander (ed.). 1999. *Southern Politics in the 1990s*.  
 Lublin, David. 2004. *The Republican South*. (chpts. 2, 3), on-line.  
 Luebke, Paul. 1998. *Tar Heel Politics 2000*.  
 Reed, John Shelton. 1993. *My Tears Spoiled My Aim* (pp. 5-64), on-line.  
 Reed, John Shelton. 1995. *Kicking Back* (pp. 3-56), on-line.  
 Sellers, Patrick, et al., “Congressional Redistricting in North Carolina,” on-line.

Three of the above books on library reserve contain chapters on each southern state: Key; Bass and DeVries; and Lamis. These are books that you should refer to for information on North Carolina and the other state that you have chosen for your research paper.

## 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 19, counting 15% toward the final grade.
2. An in-class essay exam, following topic C and tentatively scheduled for October 5, counting 15% toward the final grade.
3. A research paper comparing congressional elections in North Carolina and one other southern state, due December 7, counting 30% toward the final grade.
4. An in-class final exam, scheduled for December 17, counting 30% toward the final grade.
5. Class participation, including both general participation in class discussions and informal presentations on politics in your state, counting 10% 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.

2. Students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy for all work submitted in this course. In particular, students should understand what plagiarism is and how they should be careful to avoid committing plagiarism.

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
A. Introduction: Studying Southern Politics	Aug. 22-24	Bullock and Rozell, introduction Scher, chpt. 1 Woodard, chpt. 1

**I. The Background and Setting of Southern Politics****B. Historical foundations**

1. The 19th century South	Aug. 27- Sept. 5	Woodard, chpt. 2 (pp. 23-44) and chpt. 4 (pp. 125-139)
2. The Solid South	Sept. 7-10	Scher, chpt. 3 Woodard, chpt. 2 (pp. 44-58), chpt. 4 (pp. 139-148), chpt. 9 (363-372), chpt. 10 (pp. 387-396) Key, chpts. 1, 10, 14, plus state chapter
3. The civil rights era	Sept. 12-17	Scher, chpts. 6-8 Woodard, chpt. 4 (pp. 148-169) Bass and DeVries, chpts. 3, 10, plus state chpt.
<b>First Exam</b>	Sept. 19	

**C. Southern economy, society, and culture**

1. Southern economy & society	Sept. 21-26	Scher, chpt. 2 Woodard, chpt. 3 Luebke, chpts. 4-5
2. Southern culture	Sept. 28- Oct. 3	Reed (1995), pp. 3-56 Reed (1993), pp. 5-64 Woodard, chpt. 10 (pp. 396-413)
<b>Second Exam</b>	Oct. 5	

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
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## II. Patterns of Republican Growth in Southern Elections

### D. Republican success at different office levels

1. Presidential elections	Oct. 8	Scher, chpt. 4
2. Congressional and state elections	Oct. 10-12	Scher, chpt. 5 Woodard, chpt. 6 Lublin, chpt. 2

### (Fall Break)

### E. Republican success in individual southern states

1. The Deep South	Oct. 17-19	Bullock and Rozell, chpts. 1-5 Woodard, chpt. 7-8 (parts on AL, GA, LA, MS, and SC) Lamis, state chapter
2. The Rim South	Oct. 22-24	Bullock and Rozell, chpts. 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 Woodard, chpt. 7-8 (parts on AR, FL, TN, TX, and VA) Lamis, state chapter
3. North Carolina	Oct. 26-29	Bullock and Rozell, chpt. 7 Woodard, chpt. 7-8 (parts on NC) Lamis, chpt. 3

## 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. 31- Nov. 2	Black and Black (2002), chpt. 7 Luebke, chpt. 7
2. Religion and religious issues	Nov. 5-7	Bullock and Rozell, chpt. 13 Woodard, chpt. 5
3. Social class and economic issues	Nov. 9-12	Black and Black (2002), chpt. 8 Luebke, chpt. 6
4. Party and ideology	Nov. 14-16	Black and Black (1992), chpt. 8

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
G. Dynamics of Republican growth		
1. Presidential elections	Nov. 19-26	Black and Black (1992), chpts. 1, 2, 11
2. Congressional elections	Nov. 28- Dec. 3	Black and Black (2002), chpts. 1, 11 Sellers et al. "Congressional Redistricting" Canon (1999) chpts. 1, 6
3. State elections	Dec. 5	Lublin, chpt. 3
<b>IV. Conclusion</b>		
H. The future of the New South	Dec. 7-10	Scher, chpt. 11 Woodard, chpt. 11
<b>Final Exam</b>	Dec. 17	