

This course in United States politics focuses on the South. Students will be expected to master an understanding of this topic, paying special attention to partisan competition, the politics of race, redistricting, and voting rights.

Written examinations, written assignments, a research paper, and an assessment of class participation will assess students' comprehension of this objective. Each of the first two *cumulative* exams and the research paper assignments constitute just over one-sixth of your course grade. Class participation (class assignments and unscheduled quizzes on the assigned reading to reward those who do and understand the readings) also counts as one-sixth. The third exam counts as one-third.

Ultimately your grade turns on my impression of how well you have done in this course. What impresses me? Think of this course as your job and approach it with professionalism. Take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—read the assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions; arrive early to class; remain for the entire class; be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with cell phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips or any other reason for coming-and-going, and so forth; take exams when scheduled and complete assignments when due; demonstrate your understanding on the exams, quizzes, and research paper assignments. Laptops, cell phones, and PDAs may not be used in class.

Office: 316b Carr Collins, 214-768-2529; HStanley@SMU.edu (e-mail works best); office hours W 2:30-4, and by appointment

Th, Aug 27 * Introduction and Overview, assignment: hand in personal information sheet on Blackboard

T, Sept 1 * Key, *Southern Politics*, preface and c. 1 (1-12): "The Problem"; assignments to hand in during class: syllabus take-home quiz from Blackboard and 375-word summary of Key's first chapter

Th, Sep 3 * class meets in Fondren Library, FLE 109B (Screening Room); Key, cc. 2-3 (15-57):

Commonalities and Differences: VA and AL

T, Sep 8 * Key, cc. 4-6 (58-129): TN, FL, and GA

Th, Sep 10 * Key, cc. 7-9 (130-204): SC, LA, and AR

T, Sep 15 * Key, cc. 10-12 (205-276): NC, MS, and TX

Th, Sep 17 * Key, cc. 13 & 14 (277-311): One-party, So What?

T, Sept 22 * Key, cc. 30-31 (644-675): The "Future"

Th, Sep 24 * Key's South: A Retrospective; Davidson, "V.O. Key's Theory of Texas Politics"

T, Sep 29 * Exam One

Th, Oct 1 * Review first exam (?); Black & Black, *The Rise of Southern Republicans*, (hereafter, *RSR*), c. 1 (1-39):

The Southern Transformation; 375-word summary of Black and Black's first chapter

T, Oct 6 * B&B, *RSR*, c. 2 (40-71): Confronting the Democratic Juggernaut

Th, Oct 8 * B&B, *RSR*, c. 3 (72-113): The Promising Peripheral South

Th, Oct 15 * B&B, *RSR*, cc. 4-5 (114-173): The Impenetrable Deep South and the Democratic Smother

T, Oct 20 * B&B, *RSR*, c. 6 (174-204): Democratic Domination

Th, Oct 22 * B&B, *RSR*, c. 7 (205-240): Reagan's Realignment of White Southerners

After three unexcused absences I drop you from the course. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university activities necessitate communication with me in advance. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, see me first.

Each of you *who have not previously taken a course with me* must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up in class for an appointment time. Be punctual.

All readings should be on reserve in Fondren. The books ordered through the bookstore include Key, *Southern Politics*; Black and Black, *The Rise of Southern Republicans*; and Morgan, *Governance by Decree: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act in Dallas*. Also required but not listed below: you are expected to supplement the listed readings with media accounts of ongoing politics in the southern states. Understand that assigned readings listed here for Black and Black include the endnotes (not listed here) associated with those pages.

There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of Blackboard at <https://courses.smu.edu>.

T, Oct 27 * B&B, *RSR*, c. 8 (241-267): A New Party System

Th, Oct 29 * guest lecturer Bob Moser, *Blue Dixie* (read paperback's afterword; skim rest of book)

T, Nov 3 * B&B, *RSR*, cc. 9-10 (268-327): Peripheral South Breakthrough and Deep South Challenge

Th, Nov 5 * B&B, *RSR*, cc. 11-12 (328-404): The Republican Surge and Competitive South, Competitive America; Review

F, Nov 6, 4 pm >>>Research paper, elaborated thesis statement, 250 words; evaluate: either previous assignment, Atlanta Mayor's race, Virginia 2009 governor's race, or party competition in the South in 2006 and 2008 more generally.

T, Nov 10 * Exam Two

Th, Nov 12 * Review second exam (?); Morgan, *Governance by Decree* (hereafter, *GD*), introduction and conclusion (1-5, 268-278)

T, Nov 17 * Morgan, *GD*, c. 1 (9-32): Voting Rights Act

Th, Nov 19 * Morgan, *GD*, c. 2 (33-63): Voting Rights Case Law

>>>Research paper due F, Nov 20, 4 pm: 2,500 words

T, Nov 24 * Morgan, *GD*, cc. 3-4 (67-118): History, Culture, and Political Heritage of Dallas

T, Dec 1 * Morgan, *GD*, cc. 5-6 (119-196): Dallas in Court, 1967-1991 and Electoral Effects of the VRA in Dallas

Th, Dec 3 * Meet the Author: Ruth Morgan, former SMU Provost and Professor of Political Science

T, Dec 8 * Morgan, *GD*, cc. 7-8 (197-267): Policy Results

Th, Dec 17 * Exam Three, 8-10:30 am