

This course in United States politics focuses on the South, paying special attention to partisan competition, the politics of race, redistricting, and voting rights.

In general, each of the six exams constitutes about 12 percent of your course grade. The research paper assignments each count for around 12 percent and class participation (in part, unscheduled quizzes on the assigned reading to reward those who do and understand the readings) constitutes roughly 4 percent of your course grade.

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—keep up, read the assignments for understanding before class, 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.

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 must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. 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 <http://cmsbb.systems.smu.edu/>.

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Office: 316b Carr Collins, x8-2529; [HStanley@SMU.edu](mailto:HStanley@SMU.edu) (e-mail works best); office hours W 10-11:30; and by appointment

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T, Jan 15 \* Introduction and Overview, assignment: hand in personal information sheet from Blackboard  
Th, Jan 17 \* Key, *Southern Politics*, preface and c. 1 (1-12): "The Problem"; assignment to hand in during class: syllabus take-home quiz from Blackboard  
T, Jan 22 \* no class meeting (follow Mon schedule)  
Th, Jan 24 \* Key, cc. 30-31 (644-675): The "Future"  
T, Jan 29 \* Key, cc. 13 & 14 (277-311): One-party, So What?  
Th, Jan 31 \* Exam 1 (40 minutes)

T, Feb 5 \* Key, cc. 2-3 (15-57): Commonalities and Differences: VA and AL  
Th, Feb 7 \* Key, cc. 4-6 (58-129): TN, FL, and GA  
T, Feb 12 \* Key, cc. 7-9 (130-204): SC, LA, and AR  
Th, Feb 14 \* Key, cc. 10-12 (205-276): NC, MS, and TX  
T, Feb 19 \* Exam 2 (40 minutes); Davidson, "V.O. Key's Theory of Texas Politics": Key's South: A Retrospective

Th, Feb 21 \* Black & Black, *The Rise of Southern Republicans*, (hereafter, *RSR*), c. 1 (1-39): The Southern Transformation  
T, Feb 26 \* B&B, *RSR*, c. 2 (40-71): Confronting the Democratic Juggernaut  
Th, Feb 28 \* B&B, *RSR*, c. 3 (72-113): The Promising Peripheral South  
T, Mar 4 \* B&B, *RSR*, cc. 4-5 (114-173): The Impenetrable Deep South and the Democratic Smother  
Th, Mar 6 \* no class meeting, but read B&B, *RSR*, c. 6 (174-204): Democratic Domination

**F, Mar 7, research paper due: Explain the outcomes of the 2008 South Carolina presidential primaries (1,000 words)**

T, Mar 11 & Th, Mar 13 \* no class meeting (Spring Break)  
T, Mar 18 \* Exam 3 (40 minutes)

Th, Mar 20 \* B&B, *RSR*, c. 7 (205-240): Reagan's Realignment of White Southerners  
T, Mar 25 \* B&B, *RSR*, c. 8 (241-267): A New Party System  
Th, Mar 27 \* B&B, *RSR*, cc. 9-10 (268-327): Peripheral South Breakthrough and Deep South Challenge  
T, Apr 1 \* B&B, *RSR*, cc. 11-12 (328-404): The Republican Surge and Competitive South, Competitive America;  
Th, Apr 3 \* Exam 4 (40 minutes)

T, Apr 8 \* Morgan, *Governance by Decree* (hereafter, *GD*), introduction, c. 1, and conclusion (1-5, 9-32, 268-278), Voting Rights Act

Th, Apr 10 \* Morgan, *GD*, c. 2 (33-63): Voting Rights Case Law

T, Apr 15 \* Morgan, *GD*, cc. 3-4 (67-118): History, Culture, and Political Heritage of Dallas

Th, Apr 17 \* Morgan, *GD*, cc. 5-6 (119-196): Dallas in Court, 1967-1991 and Electoral Effects of the VRA in Dallas

**F, Apr 18, research paper due: what are the most significant insights about southern politics that can be learned from the outcomes of the 2008 presidential primaries in the South? (1,000 words)**

T, Apr 22 \* Morgan, *GD*, c. 7 (197-228): Governance Consequences

Th, Apr 24 \* Morgan, *GD*, c. 8 (229-267): Policy Results

T, Apr 29 \* Exam 5 (40 minutes, focusing on Morgan reading)

**F, May 9 \* Exam 6: take-home final (1,000 words) due at 11:30am: earlier submission encouraged: evaluate from the perspective of recent years, whether Key's conclusion that "the South as a whole has developed no system or practice of political organization and leadership adequate to cope with its problems." still holds.**