This course focuses on the politics of the American South in the 20th and 21st centuries. In attempting to make sense of this region’s unique, fascinating, and often frustrating politics, we will explore a series of related topics all relating to a central theme of race relations. After placing the region’s politics in theoretical context, we will explore the economic and historical factors that shaped the “old” South and led to revolutionary transformations in the region during the middle decades of this century.

In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to more contemporary matters, examining presidential and sub-presidential level politics in the South, surveying the political landscapes in selected deep and rim South states, and considering several contemporary topics in greater depth, including the theoretical concept of partisan realignment and the dynamics of racial representation. We will also consider the relationship between Southern politics and conservatism in the South and the United States more generally, in terms of both ideology and party identification.

As the title of the course indicates, this course is a seminar. While I, as the instructor, will normally lead the discussion in the course, your participation and reading is key to the success of the course. You are expected to complete the readings prior to class and to be prepared to discuss their content with your fellow students.

**Texts:** Readings will be taken from the following books:


Additional readings, as noted on the syllabus by (R), will be made available online via BlackBoard or on reserve at the library.

**Assignments and Grading:** Your grade in this course will be based on the following elements:

- Short Research Paper (including presentation) 15%
- Long Research Paper (including presentation) 30%
- Book Review 25%
- Final Exam (take-home, due **Tuesday, May 2nd, at 2 p.m.**) 20%
- Participation 10%
Short Research Paper: The short research paper (3–4 pages) is a review of the “old” (pre-Civil Rights Era) politics of one Southern state. Each student will be assigned a (unique, if possible) state, although an effort will be made to match students to states based on their individual preferences. A good source for this paper would be the appropriate chapter(s) of V.O. Key’s Southern Politics in State and Nation; however, you should make use of more than just Key’s book. These papers will be due at the beginning of the class on Wednesday, February 1st; you will also be responsible for a brief (5–10 minute) presentation in the seminar on your paper on the 1st or 3rd.

Long Research Paper: The long research paper (7–10 pages) will consider the politics and party competition in your assigned state from the Civil Rights Era forward. These papers will be due at the beginning of the class on Wednesday, March 29th; you will also be responsible for making a 10–15 minute presentation in seminar on the 29th or 31st.

Book Review: In a 5–7-page paper, you will review Glaser’s Race, Campaign Politics, and the Realignment in the South. Your paper should be more than a summary of Glaser’s book; instead, you should analyze Glaser’s arguments and place them in the context of this class. This paper will be due on the final day of classes (Wednesday, April 26th) at the beginning of class.

General Paper Requirements: All papers written for this course must be word-processed or electronically typeset. The body of your paper should be double-spaced and written using a proportional typeface (either 11 point or 12 point). Your paper must be an individual effort; you may consult with me, the Writing Center, other faculty members, or other students, but the writing and research must be substantially your own work.

The paper must consistently utilize an “author-year” citation style, such as that of the American Political Science Association (or, if you prefer, one of the Modern Language Association or American Psychological Association styles), include appropriate figures and tables and a full bibliography listing the works cited in your paper, and be written using coherent prose and acceptable grammar. You should also include a title page with the date and appropriate identifying information.

Policies: Attendance at class is required. Please discuss any planned absences with me at least two weeks in advance.

Please arrive at class on time and mute (or switch off) all pagers, cell phones, and alarms during class.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Students are expected to demonstrate basic proficiency in communicating using the English language, as defined by Strunk and White’s The Elements of Style and other references. Poorly-written assignments and responses to essay questions may receive reduced credit.

All assignments are subject to the Duke Community Standard. You are expected to adhere to this standard on examinations and other work for class.

Late assignments will lose 5 percentage points per calendar day they are late.

This syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

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1Proportional typefaces include Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, etc. “Typewriter” (constant-width) typefaces such as Courier are not acceptable.
Course Roadmap: An approximate outline of the content of the course is as follows. Revisions to this roadmap may be made, and additional readings may be assigned, throughout the semester as circumstances warrant.

Readings marked with (R) will be made available online via BlackBoard and/or JSTOR, or as library reserves.

1. Themes: What is the South?
   Why study Southern politics?
   An Introduction to Southern economic history
   Applebome (from Dixie Rising), pp. 4–22 (R)
   Cochran (from Democracy Heading South), pp. 17–24 (R)
   Wright (from Old South, New South), pp. 1–16 (R)

2. Themes: The South as a colonial economy
   Race relations on the plantation
   Why we really seceded and what it meant
   Plantations, textiles, and early industry
   Wright (from Old South, New South), pp. 17–80 (R)
   Wright (from The Political Economy of the Cotton South), pp. 10–42 (R)
   Kantrowitz (from Ben Tillman), pp. 10-39 (R)

3. Themes: “Black-Belt” Politics
   Color Lines
   Foundations of Segregation
   The “Democracy” and one-party politics
   The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898
   The old South in presidential politics
   Key, pp. 3–12, 509–554 (R)
   Prather (from Democracy Betrayed), pp. 15–41 (R)
   Kantrowitz (from Democracy Betrayed), pp 95–111 (R)
   Gavins (from Democracy Betrayed), pp 185-206 (R)
   Black and Black, pp. 3-22, 75-97
   The Vital South, pp. 79-94, 116-127 (R)

4. Themes: Industrialization and Urbanization
   Rise of the Southern Middle Class
   Black and Black, pp. 23–72
   Hanchett (from Sorting out the New South City), pp 13–88 (R)

5. Themes: Outer and intermediate color lines
   The politics of civil rights
   Key, pp. 644–675 (R)
   Black and Black, pp. 98–171

6. Themes: Changes in the Southern electorate
   Democrats and Dixecrats
   GOP Growth in the Rim South
   Black and Black, pp. 175–194
   Micklethwait and Wooldridge, pp. 5–62.

7. Themes: The contemporary Southern electorate
   Public opinion in the modern South
   Two-party politics in the 1980s
   Black and Black, pp. 195–256
   Micklethwait and Wooldridge, pp. 63–93.
   Kuklinski, Cobb, and Gilens, "Racial Attitudes and the New South" (R)
8. Themes: Continuing Democratic strength
   Emerging Republican presence
   1994—GOP Breakthrough?
   Black and Black, pp. 276–291
   Micklethwait and Wooldridge, pp. 94–128.

   From Bullock and Rozell:
   The Deep South: “South Carolina”: Kuzenski; “Mississippi”: Breaux and Menifield.

10. Themes: Realignments
    Dealignment and the rise of independent Southerners
    Dual Partisanship?
    Key, “A Theory of Critical Elections.” (R)
    Beck, “Partisan Dealignment in the Postwar South.” (R)
    Cochran (from Democracy Heading South), pp. 116–143 (R)
    Stanley, “Southern Partisan Changes: Dealignment, Realignment, or Both” (R)

11. Themes: The election of black officials
    Structural and socio-economic factors
    The impact of the Voting Rights Act
    Davidson and Grofman: chapters 1, 6, 7, 10–13.

12. Themes: Representation of black interests
    Whites representing blacks
    Blacks representing blacks
    Redistricting and Representation
    Symbolic and substantive representation
    Overby and Cosgrove, “Unintended Consequences” (R)
    Cameron, Epstein, and O’Halloran, “Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?” (R)
    Voss and Lublin, “Black Incumbents, White Districts.” (R)
    Court cases: Thorndale v. Gingles; Shaw v. Reno.

13. Theme: Racial Threat
    Giles and Buckner, “David Duke and Black Threat: An Old Hypothesis Revisited.” (R)
    Voss, “Beyond Racial Threat: Failure of an Old Hypothesis in the New South” (R)
    Giles and Buckner, comment (R)
    Voss, “Familiarity Doesn’t Breed Contempt” (R)
    Orey, “White Racial Attitudes and Support for the Mississippi State Flag.” (R)

14. Themes: Southern Politics in National Perspective
    Conservatism, Southern Politics, and National Politics
    Bullock and Rozell, pp. 283–298.
    Black and Black, pp. 259–275; 292–316.
    Micklethwait and Wooldridge, pp. 291–417