

# POS 3173: Southern Politics

(Class Number 21687)

Fall Semester, 2018

Class: T 8:30-10:25AM, R 9:35-10:25AM

Location: AND 0134

**Instructor:** Dr. Chase B. Meyer  
**Email:** chase.meyer@ufl.edu  
**Office:** Anderson Hall 317  
**Office Hours:** Wed. & Thurs. 11:00-1:00PM  
**Course Website:** www.chasebmeyer.com  
**Department:** Department of Political Science  
**Department Contact:** <https://polisci.ufl.edu> (352) 392-0262

**Course Description:** This class will examine the politics of the American South, both historical and in its present day. We will examine why the South is unique and why it should be studied and why this one particular region of the country carries outsized importance. The history of this country can be best explained as the history of the South, and the politics of this country is the politics of the South.

## **Required Texts:**

*The Rational Southerner: Black Mobilization, Republican Growth, and the Partisan Transformation of the American South.* M.V. Hood III, Quentin Kidd, and Irwin L. Morris.

*New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics.* Charles S. Bullock and Mark J. Rozell.

**Readings:** At the end of every class period I will assign the readings for the next week. These readings should be completed before the beginning of the next class period. The readings will include chapters from the required text books as well as other reading materials that I will put on the course website. For the additional readings they will be posted on the day they are assigned, giving students a full week to read them.

**Class Format:** This course is for 3 credit hours split over two days, for two hours on Tuesday and for one hour on Thursday. During class time students should not be on their cell-phones and while laptops are allowed for note taking purposes, students will not be permitted to use their laptops for any other purpose during the class instruction time.

## **Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, and I will take attendance every day of the semester. I will give each student one unexcused absence. After the first unexcused absence I will begin taking off points for any unexcused absence afterwards. If you have an excused absence (illness, death in the family, etc.)

please talk to me and give me proof of the excused absence (a doctor's note for example).

**Participation:** Participation is also mandatory. I expect students to participate in class discussions, to answer questions when asked, and to contribute whenever asked in class.

**Writing Assignments:** Throughout the semester students are required to complete THREE writing assignments. Two of these writing assignments will be short 1-2 page response papers to that week's assigned readings. These are NOT to be summaries, but rather your response to the reading. What did you think about the reading? Do you agree or disagree? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the readings? These response papers will be due at the beginning of class. One assignment will be due BEFORE the midterm and the second one will be due BEFORE the final exam. If you wish to do both writing assignments before the midterm you are free to do so.

The third writing assignment will be due anytime before the end of the semester. This assignment will be slightly longer than the reading response papers, approximately 3-4 pages and will be a response to one of the weekly lecture topics. Similar to the smaller reading response papers these are not to be summaries about the weekly lecture, but focus on questions and thoughts students have about the topic. While the reading response papers will be merely the student's reaction to the reading, this paper will be more in-depth. I want the student to question a claim made in the class and in their paper supply evidence to refute this claim. Or students can support a claim that was made in class with evidence. This "evidence" does not need to be data or scholarly articles; it can simply be media stories for example. We will discuss this paper more in-depth later on in the semester.

**Exams:** There will be two exams given this semester; a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will cover the topics and readings for that half of class. There will be no make-up exams unless the student has a legitimate excuse or talks to me before the exam is given.

**Miscellaneous:** Extra credit opportunities will be assigned throughout the semester, if you want extra points or to do extra work, these will be your opportunities to do so. Do not come to me at the end of the semester and ask for more extra credit chances, by that time you will have missed your chance.

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Participation          | 10% |
| Attendance             | 10% |
| Response Paper #1      | 10% |
| Response Paper #2      | 10% |
| Lecture Response Paper | 10% |
| Midterm Exam           | 25% |

|                   |                  |                  |                  |             |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Final Exam        |                  |                  |                  | 25%         |
| <b>Total:</b>     |                  |                  |                  | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>A+:</b> 97-100 | <b>B+:</b> 87-89 | <b>C+:</b> 77-79 | <b>D+:</b> 67-69 |             |
| <b>A:</b> 93-96   | <b>B:</b> 83-86  | <b>C:</b> 73-76  | <b>D:</b> 63-66  |             |
| <b>A-:</b> 90-92  | <b>B-:</b> 80-82 | <b>C-:</b> 70-72 | <b>D-:</b> 60-62 |             |
|                   |                  |                  | <b>F:</b> 0-59   |             |

**Instructor Availability:** I will hold office hours every week on Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00AM to 1:00PM in my office located in Anderson Hall, room 317. These office hours are subject to change and if any changes are made to my scheduled office hours I will inform the class. If you would like to meet with me outside of my normal office hours please email me at chase.meyer@ufl.edu.

**Special Needs and Academic Honesty:** The University of Florida is committed to providing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, a student should present his/her accommodation letter to me supporting a request for accommodations. The University encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible within the semester.

Academic honesty is of the utmost important in an academic setting like UF. You are welcome to study together but make sure the work you hand in is your own. I will not tolerate plagiarism or deception in any form. All work in this class is to be your own. Students who fail to abide by this policy, or who plagiarize, will receive a failing grade on the assignment.

**Course Schedule (subject to change):**

**Week 1:** Thurs. Aug. 23 – Course Introduction and What *IS* the South?  
*Readings Due: None*

**Week 2:** Tues. Aug. 28 – History of the South  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. Intro.*  
Thurs. Aug. 30 – History of the South cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 1*

**Week 3:** Tues. Sept. 4 – Solid, Rim, and Deep South  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 2*  
Thurs. Sept. 6 – Solid, Rim, and Deep South cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 3*

**Week 4:** Tues. Sept. 11 - Solid, Rim, and Deep South cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 4*  
Thurs. Sept. 13 – Solid, Rim, and Deep South cont.

*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 5*

- Week 5:** Tues. Sept. 18 – Rise of Southern Republicans  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 6*  
Thurs. Sept. 20 – Rise of Southern Republicans cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 7*
- Week 6:** Tues. Sept. 25 – The New Semi-Solid South  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 8*  
Thurs. Sept. 27 – The New Semi-Solid South cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 9*
- Week 7:** Tues. Oct. 2 – Partisan Realignment  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 10*  
Thurs. Oct. 4 – Partisan Realignment cont.  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 11*
- Week 8:** Tues. Oct. 9 – Voting Rights in the South  
*Readings Due: Bullock & Rozell Chap. 12*  
Thurs. Oct. 11 – Voting Rights in the South cont.  
*Readings Due: None*
- Week 9:** Tues. Oct. 16 – **Exam #1**  
*Readings Due: None*  
Thurs. Oct. 18 – Important Figures in the South  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 1*
- Week 10:** Tues. Oct. 23 – Huey Long Documentary  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 2*  
Thurs. Oct. 25 – Birth of a Nation  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 3*
- Week 11:** Tues. Oct. 30 – Birth of a Nation and The Dunning School  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 4*  
Thurs. Nov. 1 – Black and Latino Candidates for Office  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 5*
- Week 12:** Tues. Nov. 6 – Living in the South While Black  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 6*  
Thurs. Nov. 8 – Living in the South While Black cont.  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 7*
- Week 13:** Tues. Nov. 13 – Religion and the South  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 8*  
Thurs. Nov. 15 – Religion and the South cont.  
*Readings Due: Hood et al. Chap. 9*

**Week 14:** Tues. Nov. 20 – DISTRICT WORK PERIOD, NO CLASS  
*Readings Due: Watch Documentary*  
Thurs. Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving, NO CLASS  
*Readings Due: None*

**Week 15:** Tues. Nov. 27 – Economy of the South  
*Readings Due: TBD*  
Thurs. Nov. 29 – Southern Politics Today  
*Readings Due: TBD*

**Week 16:** Tues. Dec. 4 – Recent Issues in Southern Politics  
*Readings Due: TBD*  
Thurs. Dec. 6 – Reading Day, NO CLASS  
*Readings Due: None*

**Final Exam date and time: TBD**