

Southern Politics
(POLS 4660)
Spring 2025

Instructor: Professor Hood
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Course Webpage: The course website is on [ELC](#).

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of politics in the South from the pre-civil rights era to the present. Students will be exposed to detailed information and materials relating to black disenfranchisement, [re]enfranchisement and mobilization; social and economic changes in the region; political party transformation; the role of religion in political matters; and the effects of redistricting and reapportionment on political outcomes. After completing this course students should have a firm grasp of the political changes that have occurred in the region over the last fifty years, as well as a clear picture of the current political situation.

Note: This is an in-person class; lectures are not available online.

Required Materials:

Texts (All texts are available at no cost through the UGA online library catalogue; used hard copy versions available through Amazon):

- *The Three Governor's Controversy* [978-0-8203-4734-9]
- *The Rational Southerner: Black Mobilization, Republican Growth, and the Partisan Transformation of the American South* [978-0-19-937764-0]
- *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965* [0-8078-4274-5]
Rural Republican Realignment in the Modern South: The Untold Story [978-1-64336-302-8]
- Other readings will be made available electronically via [ELC](#).

Course Expectations:

Participation: This class is organized around the assumption that students will both attend class and prepare for class by performing the set of assigned readings. While in class, students are further expected to participate in discussions and answer questions posed by the instructor. Obviously, it is difficult to participate in class discussions without being physically present. In order to adequately prepare for class, all assigned readings should be examined by the dates indicated on the course website. Not all of the readings will be discussed in class; however, this does not negate your responsibility to know the assignment materials. Excessive absences will result in being dropped by the instructor from the course.

Grading Scheme:

- Mid-Term Exam¹ 50%
- Final Exam¹ 50%

Grading Scale:

<60: F; 60-69: D; 70-72: C-; 73-76: C; 77-79: C+; 80-82: B-; 83-86: B; 87-89: B+; 90-92: A-; 93-100: A

Class Schedule:

A detailed schedule will be posted on [ELC](#) that will contain information on weekly reading assignments as well as important announcements.

Course Topics:

Course Introduction: Defining the South?

I. The Pre-Civil Rights Era

Black Disenfranchisement; One-Party Politics; Apportionment; The Region's Role in National Politics

II. The Civil-Rights Era

Demographic and Economic Change; Black Enfranchisement and Mobilization; The Civil Rights Movement; The Voting Rights Act; The Formation of a Two-Party System

III. The Post-Civil Right Era

Class-Based Voting; Individual-Level Explanations of Partisan Change; Redistricting; Presidential Politics; Religion and Politics in the Region; Voting Rights Redux; Recent Demographic Trends: In-Migration and Hispanics; The Region's Role in National Politics II; The Rural Republican Realignment

Date:	Important Events:
1/6	First Class Meeting
1/20	MLK Holiday
2/26; 2/28	Mid-Term Exam
3/3-7	Spring Break
4/3	Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline
4/28	Last Class Meeting
4/29	Exam Q&A Session [Reading Day] (10 a.m.)
5/5	Final Exam (12:00-3:00 p.m.)

¹Makeup exams are not given.