

Political Science 3039
Black Politics in America
Fall 2009
Tuesday - 6:30 P.M.

Few subjects have been so important as race in the political development of the United States, the South, and North Carolina. The subject of race is at the very heart of fundamental questions relating to American democracy and the American Dream. This course stresses the role of African Americans in the context of the American political system.

Information:

1) Textbooks

- a. Juan Williams – Eye on the Prize
- b. Jeffrey Crow, Paul Wscott, Flora Hatley – The History of African Americans in North Carolina
- c. Shelby Steele – The Content of our Character
- d. A book or series of articles of your choosing to be approved by instructor. This is to be something you have not read before.

2) Tests and Projects

- a. Test I – (Take Home Test) – Due September 29 – You will get questions a week in advance.
- b. Test II – October 27 – essay and identification on readings lectures and discussion up to this point.
- c. Test III – December 8 – essay and identification test on material covered since Test I.
- d. Final Exam – (Take Home) due on evening of Tuesday December 15
- e. Class Project – There are two options.
 1. Participants in a group oral project. Follow-up with an informal paper of about seven pages.
 2. Write a Full length (20-25 page term paper – research and analysis on topic of your choosing – Due date to be announced.

Office – Brewster A-130

Normal Office Hours

Tuesday: 3:15 – 4:30

Wednesday: 10:00 – 1:15

Thursday: 11:20 – 12:20

Occasionally it may be necessary to change times because of meetings, etc. If I am in my office you are always welcome whether or not it is an official office hour time. ***Phone- Durham - (919) 682-6486; Greenville – 752-7543; cell phone – (919) 402-7810.***

Anyone needing special accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Service (737-1016).

Course Outline

August 25 – Introduction

September 1

- I. Race in America and the World
 - a. Racial thinking
 - b. Racial terminology
 - c. The meaning of Barack Obama

- II. Black Politics in America
 - a. A capsule history: From 1600's to now
 - b. Racial issues
 - c. Shifting tides

There is no class on September 8 as Monday classes (Labor Day Make up) will be meeting on that day.

September 15

- I. America in 1776
- II. America in 1876
- III. America – The 1890's and early 1900's
- IV. African Americans in North Carolina and the South
 - a. Political role – 1880's, 1890's
 - b. The significance of Wilmington and the 1898-1908 elections
 - c. The roles of primaries, poll taxes and literacy tests
 - d. Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) and its aftermath

September 22

- I. The origins of the Modern Civil Rights Movement
 - a. The legal approach
 - b. The political approach
 - c. Why the legal was more effective than the political?
 - d. Booker T. Washington and WEB DuBois
 - e. The Foundation of the NAACP

- II. The Implementation of the Legal Approach
 - a. Gaines v. Canada
 - b. The McLaurin Sweatt and Henderson Cases
 - c. Could separate by law ever be equal?

September 29

- I. Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)
 - a. Companion cases
 - b. The challenges
 - c. The Politics
 - d. The decision

- II. The Challenge of Implementation
 - a. The challenge
 - b. The significance

October 6

The Early Civil Rights Movement

- I. Montgomery and the Rise of King
- II. Early Southern School Desegregation
 - a. Clinton, Tennessee, Military Bases, Catholic Schools
 - b. Little Rock
 - c. Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem

October 13 Fall Break – No Classes

October 20

The Climax of the Civil Rights Movement

- A. Oxford
- B. Birmingham
- C. Selma
- D. The Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965

October 27 – Test II

November 3

- I. Black Power Movement
 - a. The meaning of the term
 - b. Charles Hamilton and Liberation Politics Reappointment
- II. Registration and Voting
- III. Race in the 2008 Election

November 10 to end of course

Special Topics – Projects

1. The Rivalry and Long-term impact of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. The Affirmative Action Debate
3. School Integration and Busing: Then and Now
4. Race Portrayals and Stereotypes in the Media, Movies, Television and Books
5. Race and the Future of American politics