Introduction to African-American Politics
Political Science 3100.002, Fall 2010
Wooten Hall, Room 119
MWF, 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Professor: Tony E. Carey Jr., Ph.D.
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Office Hours: MWF, 3-4 p.m.
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Course Description:
This course explores the development of African-American politics in the United States. We begin by examining the modes of thought that emerged in the black community in reaction to systematic racial discrimination. Next, we deal with the social movements that took place within the African-American community to combat racial segregation in the South; in particular, this portion of the course highlights the legal battles that led to Brown v. Board of Education as well as the protest activities that paved the way for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Lastly, we will cover issues related to African Americans’ transition from protest politics to mainstream electoral involvement as well as current trends in African-American politics.

Required Reading:

In addition to the books above, there are a number of articles and book chapters that you will be expected to read before each class. These course materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Evaluation:
1) 5 Reaction Essays (25%, 5% each): On select days (which are indicated in the schedule below) you will be required to turn in an essay discussing the key issues brought up in the reading material for the week. Each essay should be no less than 700 words (approximately 3 double-spaced pages) and should reference the relevant reading material from class. Half of the points will be automatically deducted from the grades of any essay failing to meet these criteria. Hard copies must be handed in at the beginning of class. I will not grade essays sent to me via email or placed in my department inbox.

The essay should not only review the reading, but also provide an evaluation of the perspectives and arguments offered in the reading. While I am asking for your thoughts, I want you to offer a thoughtful and informed opinion for why you either agree or disagree with the authors’ positions rather than opinions based solely on your experiences or general feelings on an issue.

2) Midterm and Take-Home Final Examinations (60%, 30% each): The midterm and final examinations will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The midterm will be conducted in class. You are responsible for bringing your own bluebooks and a writing instrument for the midterm. The final will be a take-home exam and is due in my office on scheduled date for the final exam, Monday, December 13, 2010, 1:30-3:30pm. Exams are NOT cumulative.
3) **Pop Quizzes** (15%): At undisclosed times, there will be quizzes on the assigned reading material. They will consist of no more than five short answer questions. The number and frequency of the pop quizzes are at the discretion of the instructor. **There will be no makeups for pop quizzes. If you are not present on the day of a pop quiz without an approved excuse, you will receive no credit.**

**Grading Scale:**
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = Below 60

Scores will be rounded up and down when appropriate. Any fraction below .5 will be rounded down, while any fraction above .5 will be rounded up. If you are unhappy with a grade that you receive it is your responsibility to meet with me to discuss how you can improve your performance **IMMEDIATELY! I DO NOT NEGOTIATE GRADES AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER!!**

**Academic Dishonesty:**
The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf). Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).

**Disability Support Services:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that secures comprehensive civil rights protections for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that reasonably accommodates their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring special accommodations, you must contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) before they will be supplied. Students who utilize the testing center must complete an Alternative Test Request form from the ODA that must be signed by the instructor for each course and exam that he or she wishes to take at the ODA Testing Center.
Course Schedule and Assignments:

Friday, August 27, 2010- Course Overview

AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC OPINION:
Monday, August 30, 2010- The History of Black Political Thought

Wednesday, September 1, 2010- Black Political Thought

Friday, September 3, 2010- Black Liberalism

Monday, September 6, 2010- Labor Day, NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 8, 2010- Black Nationalism

Friday, September 10, 2010- Black Public Opinion

THE POST-RECONSTRUCTION ERA AND THE JIM CROW SOUTH:

Monday, September 13, 2010- Accommodation or Activism
   Chapter 1 “Of Our Spiritual Strivings”
   Chapter 2 “Of the Dawn of Freedom”

First Reaction paper due: What is black liberalism and black nationalism? Explain the role each perspective has played in African-American politics as well as their merits and flaws?

Wednesday, September 15, 2010- Washington vs. DuBois
   Chapter 3 “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others.”

Friday, September 17, 2010- Brown v. Board of Education
Film, *With All Deliberate Speed*

Monday, September 20, 2010- The Initial Stages of the Civil Rights Movement
OCRM, Introduction
   Chapter 1 “Domination, Church, and the NAACP”
Wednesday, September 22, 2010- **The Initial Stages of the Civil Rights Movement**  
OCRM, Chapter 2 “Beginnings and Confrontations”

Friday, September 24, 2010- **Local Civil Rights Organizations**  
OCRM, Chapter 3 “Movement Centers: MIA, ICC, and ACMHR.”

Monday, September 27, 2010- **The Southern Christian Leadership Conference**  
OCRM, Chapter 4 “The SCLC: The Decentralized Political Arm of the Black Church.”

Wednesday, September 29, 2010- **The Southern Christian Leadership Conference**  
OCRM, Chapter 5 “The SCLC’s Crusade for Citizenship.”  
**Second Reaction paper due:** Explain the primary focus of the film, *With All Deliberate Speed?* How have the efforts of the individuals in the film influenced present society? Were they completely successful?

Friday, October 1, 2010- **Relationships between the SCLC, NAACP, and CORE**  
OCRM, Chapter 6 “Organizational Relationships: The SCLC, the NAACP, and CORE

Monday, October 4, 2010- **The Application of Civil Disobedience**  
OCRM, Chapter 9 “1960: Origins of a Decade of Disruption.”

Wednesday, October 6, 2010- **Birmingham Protests**  
OCRM, Chapter 10 “Birmingham: A Planned Exercise in Mass Disruption.”

Friday, October 8, 2010- Film, *Eyes on the Prize*

Monday, October 11, 2010- **Midterm Examination**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT:**  
Wednesday, October 13, 2010- **African Americans and the Republican Party:**  
Chapter 3 “National Party Competition and the Disenfranchisement of Black Voters in the South, 1866-1932”

Friday, October 15, 2010- **African Americans and the Democratic Party**  
Chapter 4 “Captured Inside the Democratic Party, 1965-1992”

Monday, October 18, 2010- **African Americans and American Political Parties**  
Chapter 4 “Mississippi Freedom Democrats.”

Wednesday, October 20, 2010- **Majority-Minority Districts**  
Lani Guinier (1994) *Tyranny of the Majority,*  
Chapter 3 “The Triumph of Tokenism: The Voting Rights Act and the Theory of Black Electoral Success”
Friday, October 22, 2010- **Majority-Minority Districts**

**Third Reaction Essay due:** Explain the events that led to African Americans’ support for the Democratic Party. Given the strength of their support, do you believe the Democratic Party adequately addresses the needs of African-American communities?

Monday, October 25, 2010-**Implicit Racial Appeals in Presidential Elections**

Wednesday, October 27, 2010- **Discrimination against Black Candidates**

Friday, October 29, 2010- **Identity Politics in the 2008 Election**
TB, Chapter 8 “The Politics of Identity”

Monday, November 1, 2010- **Voting Patterns of African Americans**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SOCIAL POLICY:**
Wednesday, November 3, 2010- **Addressing Black Grievances Through Public Policy**

Friday, November 5, 2010- **Addressing Black Grievances Through Public Policy**

**Fourth Reaction essay due:** What are the arguments for and against majority-minority districts? Do you believe they are necessary? Why?

Monday, November 8, 2010- **Race and the U.S. Judicial System**

Wednesday, November 10, 2010- **Race and the U.S. Judicial System**

**COMPLICATING BLACK IDENTITY:**
Friday, November 12, 2010- **Racial and Gender Identities**

Monday, November 15, 2010-Film,“Chisholm’72: Unbossed and Unbought”
Wednesday, November 17, 2010-**Racial and Gender Identities**
TB, Chapter 4 “The Race-Gender Clash”

Friday, November 19, 2010-**Racial and Class Identities**
Michael Dawson (1994) *Behind the Mule* Chapter 1 “The Changing Class Structure of Black America and the Political Behavior of African Americans”

Monday, November 22, 2010-**Racial and National Identities**
Reuel Rogers (2006) *Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation: Ethnicity, Exception, or Exit,*
Chapter 4 “Afro-Caribbean and African Americans: Racially Bound or Ethnically Splintered”

**THE NEW FRONTIER OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS:**
Wednesday, November 24, 2010-**From Protest to Politics**
TB, Chapter 1 “Breaking Through”

**Fifth Reaction Essay:** Explain the relationship between the feminist movement and the civil rights movement. What difficulties have black women had reconciling their participation in both movements?

Friday, November 26, 2010-**Thanksgiving Break, NO CLASS**

Monday, November 29, 2010-**Generational Politics**
TB, Chapter 2 “The Generational Divide”
Chapter 6 “Legacy Politics”

Wednesday, December 1, 2010- Film,“Street Fight”

Friday, December 3, 2010-**Breakthroughs in African-American Politics**
TB, Chapter 3 “Barack Obama”
Chapter 7 “Cory Booker”

Monday, December 6, 2010-**Breakthroughs in African-American Politics**
TB, Chapter 5 “Artur Davis”

Wednesday, December 8, 2010-**The Future of African-American Politics?**
TB, Chapter 10 “The Next Wave”
Conclusion

Monday, December 13, 2010, 1:30-3:30pm – **Take-Home Final Exam, Wooten Hall 144**