

Southern Politics (Political Science 4039)
Dr. William Blair
Office Hours: Via Zoom by appointment
Contact me by email to schedule

Fall 2020
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Introduction:

Yeah. Of course there's 2 Hurricanes #2020

Welcome to the COVID-19 version of this course. While I would much prefer the live version, this is decision I made given the current situation. As such, it will be **online asynchronous.**

So what does that mean?

- *It means we won't have set times for class or exams*
- *There will be windows of time to complete lectures, quizzes, readings, exams and other assignments*
- *I will have "office hours" via zoom*
- *We may have zoom Q&A sessions that will not be mandatory*
- *Assignments will available on Moodle every Monday (usually) and due the following Sunday.*

Description:

This course will introduce you to the political dynamics of the 11 southern states that succeeded from the United States during the 1860's. It will focus on causes and results of the unique political history of this region and examine the political past, present and future of the region. It will also provide the opportunity to do original analysis on the political behavior of southern states.

Grading: (Precise instructions and details on all assignments will be provided via Moodle.)

Exams: (30%)

There will be mid-term and a final. They will not be cumulative.

They will be open book essays administered via Moodle

Quizzes: (20%)

There will be quizzes on our assigned McKee book chapters. They will be open book and administered via Moodle

Reaction Papers: (30% - Some will be worth more than others. This will be indicated via Moodle)

These are written responses to additional reading assignments during the semester.

These readings will be provided via Moodle.

Some papers may include special directions. These will be provided via Moodle.

These must include the following parts. They should be labeled:

1. A critical analysis of the reading.

- a. Identifying the thesis or thesis's and purposes of the reading
- b. The main ideas introduced
- c. Your evaluation of the success of the thesis or thesis's

2. Your perspective after the reading.

- a. What did you find interesting?
- b. Did you learn anything new?
- c. Did it change your mind or perspective on the issue or issues?

Project: (20%)

There will be a project to analyze current elections, past elections and predict the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election of one southern state. More information will be provided via Moodle.

Required Reading:

The Dynamics of Southern Politics: Causes and Consequences. Seth C. McKee

ISBN: 9781452287270

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-dynamics-of-southern-politics/book241015>

Course Schedule: (Always subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Week of August 24	Hurricane!/Covid-19!/Introduction! Historical Prologue
Week 2	Week of August 31	Historical Prologue
Week 3	Week of September 7	Ch. 2 - Before a Solid South
Week 4	Week of September 14	Ch. 3 - Democratic Past
Week 5	Week of September 21	Ch. 4 - Competitive Transition
Week 6	Week of September 28	Ch. 5 - Republican Present
Week 7	Week of October 12	<u>Mid-Term</u>
Week 8	Week of October 19	Ch. 6 - Generational Change and GOP Growth
Week 9	Week of October 26	Ch. 7 - Issues: Race, Economics and Religion <u>Southern State Election Prediction Project Due</u>
Week 10	Week of November 2	Ch. 7 - Issues: Race, Economics and Religion
Week 11	Week of November 9	Ch. 9 - Changing Southern Electorate
Week 12	Week of November 16	Ch. 10 - Republican Responses to Demographic Change
Week 13	Week of November 23	Ch. 10 - Republican Responses to Demographic Change <u>Thanksgiving Holiday/Covid-19 Bailout!</u>
Week 14	Week of November 30	Ch. 11 – The South in Comparative Perspective
Week 15	Week of December 7	Final Exam – Due December 11 at 11:30 pm