

African American Politics (POS 4077/AFA 4931)
Fall 2020
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The University of Florida

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Office Hours:

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*I will also be online after our class ends for about 20-30 minutes if you have questions.

Course Description:

This synchronous course will examine the political behavior of African Americans in the United States from the era of disfranchisement to the current era of the first black president. We will begin the semester with a discussion of the denial of “universal freedom” to African Americans during the 1800s. We will then discuss the civil rights and political gains African Americans experienced during the modern civil rights and black power movements in both the Democratic and Republican parties. Our course will then compare and contrast the events of the current justice and political movements to those of the past. This is a very exciting time for African American politics. We elected a Black president for two terms and now have nominated the first African American/Caribbean/Asian American woman to run as part of a major political party ticket. In addition, African Americans have made strong bids in gubernatorial elections (including Andrew Gillum in Florida) and political novices have won elections in many states. However, the police killings of black men and women have continued in recent years. Recently, we witnessed the beginning of a significant movement for racial justice that was rooted in a movement founded by three African American women – the Black Lives Matter Movement. In recent years, women of all races have protested gender harassment, violence and discrimination in another movement founded by a Black woman (Tarana Burke)-the #MeToo Movement. We will discuss all of these issues and many more this semester. I welcome your feedback on the course if you have any questions or problems.

Course Objectives:

The learning objectives for the course are:

- Trace the history of major actors, developments, and political movements in African Americans politics since the modern civil rights movement.

- Distinguish the ideological and other differences between Democratic and Republican candidates.

- Explain the campaign tactics that African Americans used to win local, state, and national political offices.
- Determine whether African American women have been disadvantaged by both their race and gender when running for and serving in political offices.
- Detail the impact of public policies, such as affirmative action, on African Americans.

How Do I Find the Class?

1. Log into elearning.ufl.edu
2. Find the class POS4077 or AFA4931 (depending on whether you're taking it for political science or African American Studies credit)
3. On the left side on canvas, you will see Zoom Sessions. Click on that and you should be able to see the class. I will also post the passcode and other information you'll need in the announcements section. When I post announcements, you can see them on canvas and will receive an email.
4. On the left side, you will also see the word "Chat". There, you can type questions that I'll answer at the end of class.
5. Finally on the left side, you will see the Discussions link. Type in the contribution you've made to the discussion. Each will have a title and the date that they occur on.

The Format:

1. On Tuesdays, we will begin promptly at 11:45am. The class ends at 1:40pm. On Thursdays, log in at 12:50pm and we will end at 1:40pm. You must enter the passcode that I will post on canvas. In this way, we will ensure that no one can "zoom-bomb" the class.
2. On the days, that you have quizzes, the format will be as follows:
I will give a power point presentation for approximately 30-40 minutes. At the end of class, you will discuss the question(s) for the day for 20-30 minutes in your breakout sessions. We will have a 10 minute break during the halfway point of class. You can use your notes and the readings/books when answering the discussion and quiz questions. However, you must read the material before class so that you can answer the questions during the allotted time period. If you complete your quiz early, feel free to log off.

3. On other days, I will give a power point presentation for approximately 30 minutes. You will then discuss the question for the day for 15-20 minutes.

Don't forget during class sessions to:

- Place your computers on mute while class is in session (unless you are participating in a discussion).
- Remain in class during the entire class session.
- Type your questions into the chat room and I will answer them at the end of class.
- Protect the video recording and passcode link. Do not share it with people who are not enrolled in the course. **The passcode for the course is 38109.**

The Required Textbooks:

American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom. Seventh Edition. Hanes Walton Jr. and Robert C. Smith (New York: Pearson, 2015).

My Grandfather's Son: A Memoir. Clarence Thomas (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2007).

The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America. Michael Eric Dyson (New York: Mariner Books, 2016).

The Loneliness of the Black Republican. Leah Wright Rigueur (Princeton University Press, 2015)

The Reserve Articles can be found on the Course Reserves link on canvas.

Your Grade will be Based on:

1) Introduction Post 5%

Provide a brief introduction (about one or two paragraphs). You may want to tell us about your major, future plans, reason for taking the class, your hometown, etc. The deadline is Friday September 4th.

2) Attendance 5%

Attendance will be taken daily. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

3) **Participation in Breakout Sessions 30%**

During the discussions in breakout sessions on Thursdays, you will be given at least one question to discuss. Approximately eight students will be assigned to each breakout discussion section. I will provide the question(s) for your to discuss. At the end of the session, type a summary of your contribution to the discussion. You must refer to the reading assignments when doing so.

4) **Quizzes 60%**

Each essay quiz will be graded. The grades on all of them will be averaged. For example, if a student earns a 100 on each quiz, 80% of the 100 will count toward the final grade.

Feedback

I will grade each assignment and record your grade within a week after it is completed.

Grading Scale:

94-100 A	90-93 A-	87-89 B+	84-86 B	80-83 B-	77-79 C+
74-76 C	70-73 C-	67-69 D+	64-66 D	60-63 D-	Below 60 E

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

Disabilities Statement:

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)

Academic Dishonesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code can be accessed at the link below and specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

[<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>]

Privacy Issues:

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Counseling Services:

For help from the university counseling services and mental health services, call (352) 392-1575, see <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, or call the University Police Department [(352) 392-1111] or 9-1-1 for emergencies. You can also find help at the U Matter We Care site [<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>].

Course Evaluation:

At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. We will evaluate the class on the last day.

Class Schedule:

Universal Freedom: Declared and Denied

- 9-1 Introduction to the class.
Discussion of COVID-19's impact at UF and recent political events.
Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 1 Universal Freedom Declared, Universal Freedom Denied
- 9-3 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 2 Federalism
Small group discussion
- 9-8 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 6 Social Movements
Film: Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom (50 minutes) discusses the protests that resulted in the ratification of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
Quiz 1
- 9-10 Textbook Reading: *Loneliness of the Black Republican*, chapter 1 Running with Hares and Hunting with Hounds

Small group discussion

- 9-15 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 6 continued
Film: *Mississippi: Is This America?* (50 minutes) discusses the activities that took place during Freedom Summer 1964 including the activism of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and the murders of Medgar Evers and Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney.
Quiz 2
- 9-17 Textbook Reading: *Loneliness of the Black Republican*, chapter 2 A Thorn in the Flesh of the GOP
Small group discussion

The Black Power Movement

- 9-22 Textbook Reading: *Loneliness of the Black Republican*, chapter 3 The Challenge of Change
Film: *Nation of Law* (55 minutes) is an episode of the Eyes on the Prize civil rights documentary series that examines the 1968 murders of two members of the Illinois Black Panther Party Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the attempts by Chicago policemen to cover up the crime. It also examines a 1971 prison uprising at the Attica State Prison in Attica, New York.
Quiz 3
- 9-24 Reserve Readings:
Did Black Lives Matter Pick Up Where the Black Panthers Left Off?
The New Jim Crow
Textbook Reading: *The Black Presidency*, chapter 6 Dying to Speak of Race
Small group discussion

Celebrity Activism, The Media, and Conservative Activism

- 9-29 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 5 The Media
Reserve Readings:
Shut Up and Play
The NFL, Activism, and #BlackLivesMatter
Quiz 4
- 10-1 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 4 Public Opinion (Conservatism); chapter 12 The Supreme Court and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom
Small group discussion
- 10-6 Reserve Readings:
Regents of the U of California v. Bakke
Gratz v. Bollinger
The One Florida Plan Executive Summary

Quiz 5

- 10-8 Reserve Reading: Fisher v. University of Texas
Small group discussion
- 10-13 Textbook Reading: *My Grandfather's Son*, chapters 1-5
Small group discussion
- 10-15 Textbook Reading: *My Grandfather's Son*, chapters 6-10
Small group discussion

Political Parties and the American Presidency

- 10-20 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 11 The Presidency, Bureaucracy and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom
Quiz 6
- 10-22 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 8 Political Parties
Small group discussion
- 10-27 Textbook Reading: *Loneliness of the Black Republican*, Chapter 7 The Time of the Black Elephant
Quiz 7
- 10-29 Textbook Reading: *Loneliness of the Black Republican*, Chapter 4 Richard Nixon's Black Cabinet
Reserve Reading: Exploring the Oral Histories of African Americans Who Support Donald Trump
Small group discussion
- 11-3 Textbook Readings: *American Politics*, chapter 9 Voting Behavior and Elections
The Black Presidency, introduction and chapter 1 How to Be a Black President
Quiz 8

- 11-5 Discussion of election results.
Reserve Readings:
Joe Biden's Long Complicated Civil Rights History
Public Defender. I Worked with Kamala Harris.
Kamala Harris Was Not a Progressive Prosecutor
Small group discussion

The Politics of Respectability, Colorism, and Black Women

- 11-10 Textbook Reading: *The Black Presidency*, chapter 2 Invisible Man Got the Whole World Watching
Reserve Reading: Melanated Millennials and the Politics of Black Hair

Quiz 9

11-12 Textbook Readings: *American Politics*, chapter 3 Political Culture and Socialization; *The Black Presidency*, chapter 3 Black Presidency, Black Rhetoric
Small group discussion

11-17 Textbook Reading: *The Black Presidency*, chapter 5 The Scold of Black Folk
Reserve Reading: Politics of Respectability, Colorism, and the Terms of Social Exchange in Family Research
Quiz 10

11-19 Reserve Readings: Doubly Bound: The Impact of Gender and Race on the Politics of Black Women
Gender and Black Presidential Politics
Small group discussion

11-24 NO CLASS

11-26 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

12-1 Textbook Reading: *American Politics*, chapter 10 Congress and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom
Reserve Readings:
How Can a Black Woman Be a Republican?
Baltimore GOP Candidate Kim Klacik
Quiz 11

12-3 Reserve Readings:
Contemporary Black Populism and the Development of Multiracial Electoral Coalitions: The 2018 Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum Gubernatorial Campaigns
Jennifer Carroll
Small group discussion

12-8 **End of class discussion**: Today we will discuss a summary of the African American political issues we've discussed during the entire semester and also evaluate the class.