Course Description:
This course serves as an introduction to the regional study of politics in the southern United States, using a comparative state analysis approach. This course will be in a seminar format, and has several goals. First, the course will focus on the study and understanding of the political environments of the various states of the “Old” South, particularly since the end of Reconstruction to the modern day. In addition, the course will focus on peculiar aspects to the development of an active two-party system of political behavior in the once “Solid South.” This will include the development of a segregated voting system, as well as the responses by the national government beginning in the 1950s and 1960s and the impact civil and voting rights legislation has had in the various states. Third, the course will focus on the importance of the “Southern Strategy” in presidential contests. Finally, the course will focus on critical thinking and scholarly research in Southern politics.

Grading Policy:
All work is graded on a 0-100 scale. There is no “curve” for this course; the following will constitute your final grade:

- Mid-term exam ......................... 25%
- Book Critique .......................... 10%
- Participation/Attendance ........ 10%
- Project .................................. 25%
- Final Exam ............................. 30%

To calculate your final grade, multiply each grade by the appropriate percentage and then add the total to arrive at your course average. There are no “extra credit” projects given.

The grading scale is:

- A = 93 +
- A- = 90-92.9
- B+ = 87-89.9
- B = 83-86.9
- B- = 80-82.9
- C+ = 77-79.9
- C = 73-76.9
- C- = 70-72.9
- D+ = 67-69.9
- D = 63-66.9
- D- = 60-62.9
- F = 0-59

The grading criteria for the papers and exam essays includes the following:
- Is there an introduction that states a primary thesis/argument to the essay?
- Does the essay completely answer the question?
- Does the essay provide sufficient examples for the thesis?
- Is the writing clear and well organized?
- Does the essay summarize the argument?

Exams:
Each exam will be based on course lectures, discussions and assigned readings. The exam format will rely heavily on essay questions. Please note the dates of the mid-term and final exams on the schedule. Make-up exams are only given under the most dire of circumstances, and only with documented record (i.e., Health Center form).

A note on the approach of this collegiate class. The textbooks will give students an overview of knowledge that the professor may then discuss further in lecture and discussion. While the material covered in the textbooks will not be necessarily covered in complete detail in class, it is expected that students will have read the material prior to coming to class for that week. Simply because the material is not covered in class does not excuse the student from responsibility for the material on exams.

Textbooks:
The following books have been ordered for the course. The main textbooks for the course are: V.O. Key’s classic work Southern Politics in State and Nation; Charles Bullock and Mark Rozell’s edited volume, The New Politics of the Old South; and Merle and Earl Black’s twin companion pieces, Politics and Society in the South and The Vital South.

The purpose of the critique is to answer the question: “How does this work advance our knowledge of Southern politics?” The review will be 6 pages in length; see the section on Book Review for more information.

All readings should be completed before class.

A note on the readings: Active readers take notes, underline important and mystifying passages, make marginal comments, take time to think about what they have read, and come to class prepared to give their interpretations, share their thoughts, and answer questions. In addition to presenting material in lecture form, I will be asking for feedback and discussion on the readings. If you find yourself having difficulty understanding the material, please set an appointment with me and I will be happy to review the information with you.

Participation:
As scholars of political science, you should be willing to offer your insight and arguments on various topics; likewise, you should be prepared to have your arguments challenged by your colleagues. We are all here to expand our educational foundation; the right to present your argument is just as important as the right to acknowledge countervailing arguments.

Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. If the instructor believes that students are not coming prepared for class, unannounced pop quizzes will be given and counted into the participation grade.
Classroom participation includes both attendance and interaction during classroom discussion. **Attendance for all class meetings is mandatory;** if the instructor is in class, then students are expected to be in class. Missed classes will result in 3 points off the attendance component of your final grade. Unless documentation is provided by the College Health Center, the Dean of Students or Dean of the College, **absences will not be excused.** As stated in the Catawba College Catalog (pg. 79), more than 10 absences in this class (1/4 of the class meetings) will result in a grade of F for the course.

Assignments are due in the class period as noted on the schedule. Late assignments turned in within 24 hours after the class meeting they were due will have ten points deducted from the final grade. Assignments due on a Friday and that are not handed in in class will be due by 4 PM on Friday with ten points deducted from the final grade; otherwise, the assignment will be a zero. No work will be accepted after the 24 hour late period; the grade will be recorded as a zero. **Predicted questions are due at the beginning of the first class for that assignment; no predicted questions will be accepted as late.**

**Academic Honesty:**

**All work on all assignments must be your own.** Students are expected to be familiar with College guidelines for honest academic conduct, and will be held responsible with appropriate penalties.

**Grade Appeals:**

If you have a question about the grading of a work, I ask that you come in with a written explanation as to the specific area that you have a concern. This requires that you re-read back through your work, write your concern on paper, and then research as to why it should be included in your grade. Only then should you come to me and we can talk about your work. I am always available to discuss problems or difficulties, but I do not go for the “well, I had this and you didn’t count it” logic.

**Critique Papers:**

You will have a book critique due as part of your final grade. In particular, you should focus your critique on how does this work advance our knowledge of Southern politics. In this 6-page paper, you should summarize the work and critique the author’s arguments, concentrating on the overall thesis each author is advancing, and how adequately he or she makes their argument with the evidence presented. Finally, you should concentrate on the strengths and weaknesses these books make the overall scholarly understanding of Southern politics.

The book critique will be: typed; double-spaced; 10/12 point Times; normal margins (1" around); and stapled in the upper left corner. Please have only your Social Security number on the upper left-hand corner of the first page (NO FANCY COVERS or plastic binders—I will take points off for this). On all the other pages, have only page numbers. Please do not have your name on any pages in your paper, so that I may blind grade them. For citations, you may use the parenthetical approach (Author’s last name, page number), and remember to include a bibliography.

**Schedule:**

3 Politics Southern Style
The following is tentative, with changes announced in class:

I: Why study Southern Politics?

Week 1: Studying and Researching Southern Politics
  – Aldrich article

II: States of the South

Week 2: Texas & Arkansas
  – Key and Bullock

Week 3: Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana
  – Key and Bullock

Week 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia
  – Key and Bullock

Week 5: Virginia, North and South Carolina
  – Key and Bullock

II: Electoral Behavior in the South

Weeks 6 & 7: Presidential Voting in the South; Congress & the South
  – Black & Black, The Vital South

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Congressional Elections and the South
  – Black & Black, Politics & Society

Week 10-11: State-level Voting in the South; Jim Crowism in the South

IV: The South’s Uniqueness: Minorities and Representation

Week 12: BOOK REVIEW DUE

Possible trip to Atlanta with “The South” History class and dinner with Merle Black

Week 13: The National Response: Civil Rights Legislation


Week 15: Wrap-Up: Is There Such a Thing as Southern Politics?

FINAL EXAM