Syllabus and Schedule

POS 4622

Politics and Civil Rights

Dr. Terri Susan Fine

Spring 2012

Section	Location	Credit Hours
0W59	World Wide Web	3

Instructor Contact:

Instructor	Dr. Terri Susan Fine Professor of Political Science Associate Director, Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government
Office	Phillips Hall 302K
Office Hours	Monday 1-3pm and by appointment (Phillips Hall 302K) Note: Appointments available in the political science department, at the Lou Frey Institute in the Research Park (easy parking and no permit needed if you drive). The #9 UCF Shuttle will take you there (Stop #2 —Florida Institute of Government stop), or we can meet by telephone.
Phone	407-823-2081 (Political Science Department) 407-823-3636 (Lou Frey Institute)
Course mail	Available through the "mail" function on the course home page. Contacting me through the "mail" function insures no SPAM and faster responsiveness.
Personal e-mail	terri.fine@ucf.edu **Note:** E-mail to this personal account is to be used for emergencies only (i.e. if you have no Internet access); All regular communication must go through the course "mail" function. Non-emergency e-mail submitted to my personal account will not receive a response.
Course page	Available through Webcourses

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the politics of the civil rights experience in the United States since 1865. The course will focus on African-Americans and civil rights issues. The civil rights experience has been a long difficult struggle in the United States. We will explore the nature of that struggle from several perspectives.

By the end of the course, students will be able to look at citizenship difficulties among African-Americans and how various aspects of the U.S. Constitution have served to define and redefine the nature and substance of citizenship. We will also

explore the political nature of judicial decision making in the context of key U.S. Supreme Court cases as they apply to African-Americans. We will also examine key civil rights legislation and the role that key individuals, institutions and organizations play in mobilizing African-Americans to promote civil rights protection.

Political behavior and opinion will also be examined. We will look at black political behavior from the perspectives of voting, interest group mobilization, protest activities and opinion formation. The examination of elite black political behavior will address the role and impact that public officials play in the policy process in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Attention will be given to black legislators and their efforts to promote a civil rights agenda while at the same time assimilating to a predominantly white political environment. We will also look at issues such as reverse discrimination, majority-minority districting, and political party and campaign politics.

The entire course will be couched in the context of the impact of social and economic conditions on political issues. To that end, we will explore how African-Americans and whites differ in their economic and social resources and how those differences impact opportunities for securing political power.

Course Texts:

Black Politics in Conservative America by Marcus Pohlmann, Sloan Educational Publishing, ISBN 978-1597380126

The Civil Rights Movement (Revised Edition) by Bruce Dierenfield, Pearson Longman Press, ISBN 978-1405874359

The following cases are available on http://www.oyez.org

Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena (1995)
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1955)
Dred Scott v. Sandford (1856)
Grutter v. Bollinger (2003)
Milliken v. Bradley (1974)
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co. (1989)
Shaw v. Reno (1993)
Smith v. Allwright (1944)
Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (1971)
Sweatt v. Painter (1950)
University of California Regents v. Bakke (1978)

Assessment:

Your grade will be based on several Internet Learning Modules, discussions, and quizzes. The entire course will be conducted on-line; there will be no on-campus meetings.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Internet Learning Modules	45%
Quizzes	25%
Discussions	30%

All assignments are due on the day and time posted; late assignments may be submitted with prior arrangement with the instructor and submission of documentation explaining why submitting the assignment on time was not possible. The instructor must be notified within 48 hours of the missed assignment (unless doing so is impossible and the reason is documented) in order to be eligible to submit that assignment late.

Assessment Rubric:

Formative Assessment	Course Objectives Met
Internet Learning Modules	Analyze how African-Americans experience civil rights issues in the U.S. governmental context Critique the role that civil rights issues play in mass-level participation, elite behavior and public policy Evaluate how civil rights issues affect and are affected by political and electoral institutions.
Discussions	Understand and reflect on how civil rights issues affect and are affected by political and electoral institutions.
Quizzes	Know how civil rights issues affect and are affected by political and electoral institutions.

Grading

This course utilizes plus/minus grading. Your recorded final grade will be one of the following: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. There will be no A+, F+ or F-.

Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.75	C-	1.75
B+	3.25	D+	1.25
B	3.0	D	1.00
B-	2.75	D-	.75
C+	2.25	F	0

The Golden Rule:

Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in *The Golden Rule*. Students are apprised when they are accepted at the University that they must be aware of and follow these policies of conduct. See www.ucf.edu for details.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please make certain that all assignments are completed individually and for this class only. Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in *The Golden Rule*, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook.

See http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/ for further details.

1. Cheating whereby non-permissible written, visual or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on examinations, course assignments or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.

2. Plagiarism whereby another's work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

3. A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable.

Reactions to Cheating

ACADEMIC ACTION - Taken by Instructor, Chair, or Dean of College

1. Counseling
2. Loss of credit for specific assignment, exam, or project.
3. Removal from course with a grade of "F"

CONDUCT REVIEW ACTION - Taken by the Office of Student Conduct

1. Warning
2. Probation
3. Suspension
4. Expulsion
5. Permanent conduct record with UCF

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Reading Assignments:

Please contact me if you have any problems with the course. Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term. A revised syllabus may be issued at my discretion.

Grading Procedures:

Final grades are determined through the use of the following letter grades: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. Grades of A+, F+ and F- are not used.

Numerical grades compute into letter grades as follows:

Grade	Score Range	Grade	Score Range
A	95 and up	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

Numerical grades will be determined for all modules and the average of all quizzes and converted to letter grades as noted above. Once letter grades have been determined for all assessments, letter grades are associated with the following scale:

Grade	Associated Score	Grade	Associated Score
A	11	C	5
A-	10	C-	4
B+	9	D+	3
B	8	D	2
B-	7	D-	1
C+	6	F	0

Using this scale, weights are assigned based on the syllabus. All scores are then determined and weighted accordingly. This overall score is then divided by 100 and applied to the 0-11/A-F grading scale above. **Note:** Grades are not rounded.

Spring 2012 Schedule

Please contact me if you have any problems about the reading load, tips on getting the most from your reading, or the course in general.

MP is *Black Politics in Conservative America*
BD is *The Civil Rights Movement*

Quizzes are generally due on Wednesdays
Discussions-Initial Postings are generally due on Wednesdays
Discussions-Response Postings are generally due on Fridays

All assignments (quizzes, modules, discussions) are due at 11pm on their assigned days

Course Week	***Reading***	***Assignments***
January 9-January 13	No Assigned Reading	Introductory Module due January 13 11pm
January 16-January 20	MP Chapter 1	MP Quiz 1 due January 20 11pm
January 23-January 27	MP Chapter 2	Discussion 1 Initial Posting due January 25 11pm Discussion 1 Response Posting due January 27 11pm MP Quiz 2 due January 27 11pm
January 30-February 3	MP Chapter 3 MP Chapter 4 MP Chapter 5	Discussion 2 Initial Posting due February 1 11pm Discussion 2 Response Posting due February 3 11pm MP Quiz 3 due February 1 11pm MP Quiz 4 due February 1 11pm MP Quiz 5 due February 1 11pm
February 6-February 10	No Assigned Reading	Dred Scott Module due February 10 11pm
February 13-February 17	BD Chapters 1-4	BD Chapters 1-4 Quiz due 11pm February 15 Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 1-4 Equal Protection Clause Module due February 15
February 20-February 24	No Assigned Reading	Brown v. Board of Education Module due February 22 11pm
February 27-March 2	No Assigned Reading	Implementing Brown v. Board of Education Module due February 29 11pm

March 5-March 9	No Assigned Reading	**Enjoy your Spring Break**
March 12-March 16	BD Chapters 5-10	Discussion 3 Initial Posting due March 14 11pm Discussion 3 Response Posting due March 16 11pm BD Chapters 5-10 Quiz due 11pm March 14 Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 5-10
March 20, 2012		**University-wide Withdrawal Deadline**
March 19-March 23	No Assigned Reading	Non-Violent Social Change Module due March 23
March 26-March 30	No Assigned Reading	Civil Disobedience Module due March 30
April 2-April 6	BD Chapters 11-13	Discussion 4 Initial Posting due April 4 11pm Discussion 4 Response Posting due April 6 11pm BD Chapters 11-13 Quiz due 11pm April 4 Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 11-13
April 9-April 13	MP Chapter 6 MP Chapter 7	Discussion 5 Initial Posting due April 11 11pm Discussion 5 Response Posting due April 13 11pm MP Quiz 6 due April 11 11pm MP Quiz 7 due April 11 11pm Implementing the Civil Rights Act Module due April 13
April 16-April 20	MP Chapter 8	MP Quiz 8 due April 18 11pm
Wednesday April 25		Congressional Black Caucus Module due 11pm **NOTE THE DAY**