Syllabus and Schedule

POS 4622 Politics and Civil Rights

Dr. Terri Susan Fine

Fall 2014

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	Main campus office: Phillips Hall 302K Second office: Lou Frey Institute (Orlando Tech Center, 12443 Research Parkway, 400 Building, Suite 406)

Office Hours	Tuesday 12:45pm-2:45pm (main campus office) and by appointment (main campus or second office). EXCEPT: August 26 (Primary Day) September 9 (Marion County Civics Training) September 30 (Brevard County Civics Training) October 14 (Florida Department of Education Meeting) November 4 (General Election Day) November 11 (Veteran's Day-University Holiday) Note: Appointments are available in the political science department and at the Lou Frey Institute in the Research Park (easy parking and no parking permit needed). The #9 UCF Shuttle will take you to the Lou Frey Institute (Stop #2 —Florida Institute of Government stop), or we can meet by telephone. **Appointments are readily available and flexible—feel free to meet with me as the need arises.**
Phone	407-823-2081 (Political Science Department) 407-823-3636 (Lou Frey Institute)
Course Mail	Available through the "inbox" function on the course home page (upper right). Contacting me through the course insures no SPAM and faster responses.
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 "inbox" function. Non-emergency e-mail submitted to my personal account will not receive a response.
Course page	Available through Webcourses2@ucf at: https://webcourses2c.instructure.com

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 accommodating 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 U.S. Supreme Court case decisions 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

Grades 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. *The Golden Rule* is on the UCF website.

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.

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.

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Please contact me if you have any concerns 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 and Response Postings are generally due on Fridays
Internet Learning Modules are generally due on Fridays

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

Course Week	***Assigned Readings***	***Assignments***
August 18-August 22	Course Syllabus Protocols (Course Home Page Student Success (Course Home Page)	Syllabus Quiz due August 22 11pm
August 25-August 29	MP Chapter 1	MP Quiz 1 due August 27 11pm
September 1-September 5	MP Chapter 2	MP Quiz 2 due September 3 11pm Discussion 1 Initial and Response Postings due September 5 11pm
September 8-September 12	MP Chapter 3 MP Chapter 4 MP Chapter 5	MP Quiz 3 due September 10 11pm MP Quiz 4 due September 10 11pm MP Quiz 5 due September 10 11pm Discussion 2 Initial and Response Postings due September 12 11pm
September 15-September 19	No Assigned Reading	Dred Scott Module due September 19 11pm

September 22-September 26	BD Chapters 1-4	BD Chapters 1-4 Quiz due 11pm September 24 11pm Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 1-4 Equal Protection Clause Module due September 26 11pm
September 29-October 3	No Assigned Reading	Brown v. Board of Education Module due October 3 11pm
October 6-October 10	No Assigned Reading	Implementing Brown v. Board of Education Module due October 10 11pm
October 13-October 17	BD Chapters 5-10	BD Chapters 5-10 Quiz due October 15 11pm Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 5-10 Discussion 3 Initial and Response Postings due October 17 11pm
October 20-October 24	No Assigned Reading	Non-Violent Social Change Module due October 24 11pm
October 27-October 31	No Assigned Reading	Civil Disobedience Module due October 31 11pm
November 3-November 7	BD Chapters 11-13	BD Chapters 11-13 Quiz due November 5 11pm Note: The entire quiz covers chapters 11-13 Discussion 4 Initial and Response Postings due November 7 11pm
November 10-November 14	MP Chapter 6 MP Chapter 7	MP Quiz 6 due November 12 11pm MP Quiz 7 due November 12 11pm Discussion 5 Initial and Response

		Postings due November 14 11pm Implementing the Civil Rights Act Module due November 14 11pm
November 17-November 21	MP Chapter 8	MP Quiz 8 due November 19 11pm Discussion 6 Initial and Response Postings due November 21 11pm
November 24-November 28	No Assigned Reading	**Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday**
Wednesday December 3		Congressional Black Caucus Module due December 3 11pm **NOTE THE DAY**