Instructor: Christopher Stout  
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:00 or by appt.  
Class Website: online.siu.edu

Course Objective:
The United States was founded on the principles of liberty, justice, and equality for all. In spite of the noble goals of our founding fathers, for most of American history African Americans were excluded from the American political system. The United States’ long socio-historical legacy of segregation continues to play a strong role in the representation and political behavior of all Americans and in particular blacks. Thus, to gain a comprehensive understanding of American politics, students need to examine how race shapes the American electorate, its’ political institutions, and electoral outcomes.

To accomplish this goal, the course will examine several facets of black politics in the United States. The course will be divided into four sections. The first section will examine African Americans politics before the Voting Rights Act. In the second segment of this course, we will discuss black political behavior in terms of group identification, partisanship, and political participation. In the third section, we will explore black political representation through an analysis of black candidates and black elected officials. We conclude the class by examining social science research on specialized topics in black politics.

In addition to learning more about black politics, students in this class will learn skills that transcend the course’s topic and can be used in their future careers. In particular, students in this course will learn how to think critically about social science research, learn how to formulate and analyze a research question, and improve their public speaking abilities.

Course Readings:
Unfortunately, there is not one textbook that covers all of the topics in our course. To circumvent this problem, students will be required to purchase three books. The first book is Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency 1930-1970 by Doug McAdam. The second book that is required for this course is American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom by Hanes Walton Jr. and Robert Smith. The final book for the course is Black Faces in the Mirror by Katherine Tate.

In addition to the books, the course readings will be supplemented with several popular and academic articles which will be posted on the course’s website. These readings will supplement the topics covered in lecture and in the required books.
Course Structure:
Recent research has demonstrated both the strengths and limitations of a strict lecture format. While students learn a significant amount of information through hearing the analysis of professors, a combination of lecture, discussion, videos and student participation generally yields better learning outcomes for students. To ensure that students get the most out of this course, we will use a multi-faceted approach to learning.

In five courses students will engage in cooperative learning (see Ming Tsui’s (2010) article in Teaching Sociology for more details). This pedagogical format requires students to divide into small groups (2-3 students). Each member within the group is then required to teach their group mates a section of the assigned reading. Through the act of teaching, students generally learn more about the topic and gain invaluable teaching and presentation skills.

Finally, students will gain a better perspective of several important issues in black politics through debates which will occur in the final week of school. Students will be randomly assigned into a group which supports or opposes a pressing issue which concerns African Americans.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Your performance in this class will be evaluated in four different ways.

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<tr>
<th>Course Grading</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperative Learning Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debates</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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Cooperative Learning Participation 20%: To receive full credit for this portion of the class, you are required to fill out and teach a chapter/reading outline to your classmates. In total there will be five cooperative learning assignments that must be completed. Students are allowed to miss one cooperative learning opportunity without penalty if they submit three questions over the course of the semester connecting the readings to some real world political issue/debate. Other than that, students will lose 5% of their total grade for every missed cooperative learning assignment.

Midterm 30%: The midterm will test your knowledge of the first half of the course. This test will include 20 multiple choice questions and 10 short answers (5 from lecture and 5 from the readings) you will be required to answer 4 of the 5 from each section. I reserve the right to change the format of the midterm if necessary.

Course Debates 20%: After the Midterm, students will be randomly assigned a position and a topic that pertains to an important issue in black politics. In groups of four to five, students will prepare a three to five minute opening statement which will provide an outline of the topic, items in support of their position, and critiques of the opposition. The students will then as a group give two five minute constructive and rebuttal speeches.
Finally, the students will answer questions about their topic and their position from the audience. Each group will also be required to submit a five to seven page paper detailing their argument at the end of the debate. More details about the course debates will be provided after the Midterm.

**Final Exam 30%:** The final will test your knowledge of the whole course but will be heavily weighted to topics discussed following the midterm. This test will include 30-40 multiple choice questions and 10 short answers (5 from lecture and 5 from the readings). Like the midterm, you will be required to answer 4 of 5 from each section. I reserve the right to change the format of the final if necessary.

**A Note on Academic Integrity**
I find it unfortunate that instructors must include this section on the syllabus, but with a rise of electronic resources, academic dishonesty is a part of the reality in which we now function. Thus, I include a very short reminder here on the importance of maintaining academic integrity. Cheating in any form is prohibited and will result in an automatic fail for the course.

**Course Schedule and Assigned Readings:**

**Monday, January 14th** - Introduction and Syllabus  
**Reading:** None

*Setting the Stage: Black Politics before the 1965 Voting Rights Act*

**Wednesday, January 16th** – Black Politics in the Early United States  
**Readings:** Walton and Smith: Chapter 1

**Friday, January 18th** – Black Politics and Limited Opportunities during the Age of Jim Crow  
**Readings:** McAdam 86-116

**Monday, January 21st** – No Class

**Wednesday, January 23rd** – Social Movements and the Beginning of the Black Insurgency  
**Readings:** McAdam Chapter 6

**Friday, January 25th** – Video: Freedom Riders Part 1  
**Readings:** None

**Monday, January 28th** – Black Politics during the Civil Rights Movement  
**Readings:** McAdam Chapter 7

**Wednesday, January 30th** – The Implications of the 1965 Voting Rights Act  
**Readings:** Colby, David. *The Voting Rights Act and Black Registration in Mississippi*  
(Posted on Desire 2 Learn)
Friday, February 1st – Video: Freedom Riders Part 1
Readings: None

Monday, February 4th – The Decline of the Civil Rights Movement
Readings: McAdam Chapter 8

Black Politics in Contemporary America

Wednesday, February 6th – The Declining Significance of Race? Will Race Continue to Be Important for African Americans?
Readings: Wilson, William Julius. The Declining Significance of Race Chapter 8 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Friday, February 8th – Cooperative Learning Assignment 1: The Transition from Protest to Politics
Readings:
Student 1: Rustin, Bayard: From Protest to Politics (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)
Student 2: Tate, Katherine From Protest to Politics Chapter 8 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Monday, February 11th – Linked Fate in the Black Community
Readings: Dawson, Michael. Behind the Mule Chapter 3 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Wednesday, February 13th – Black Political Partisanship in Contemporary America
Readings: Walton and Smith: Chapter 9

Friday, February 15th – Is a Return to the Party of Lincoln Possible? Blacks and the Republican Party
Readings: Philpot, Tasha. Race, Republicans, and the Return of the Party of Lincoln Chapter 7 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Monday, February 18th – Who Votes: Black Political Participation in the Modern Era
Readings: Harris, Frederic, Valeria Sinclair-Chapman and Brian McKenzie. Macro dynamics of Black Political Participation in the Post-Civil Rights Era (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Wednesday, February 20th – Black Political Participation in the Age of Obama: Black Turnout in the 2008 and 2012 Elections
Readings: Philpot, Tasha, Daron Shaw, and Ernest McGowen. Winning the Race: Black Voter Turnout in the 2008 Presidential Election (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Friday, February 22nd – Cooperative Learning Assignment 2: Black Political Participation and Partisanship
Reading:
Student 1: Walton and Smith: Chapter 10
Student 2: Bolce, Louis, Gerald De Maio, and Douglas Muzzio. Blacks and the Republican Party: The 20 Percent Solution (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)
**Monday, February 25th** – Black Public Opinion  
**Readings:** Walton and Smith: Chapter 5

**Wednesday, February 27nd** – What's Going On? The Moderation of Black Public Opinion in the Modern Era  
**Readings:** Tate, Katherine. *What's Going On* Chapter 9 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

**Friday, March 1st** – How Public Opinion is Racialized  
**Reading:** Walton and Smith: Chapter 6

**Monday, March 4th** – Cooperative Learning Assignment 3: Public Opinion and Race  
**Readings:**  
Student 1: Tate, Katherine. *What's Going On* Chapter 1  
Student 2: Gilens, Martin. *Why Americans Hate Welfare* Chapter 3

**Wednesday, March 6th** – Midterm Review  
**Readings:** None

**Friday, March 8th** – Midterm  
**Reading:** None

**March 11th-March 15th** – Spring Break

**Black Candidates and Public Officials**

**Monday, March 18th** – Does Race Matter in Elections? Part 1  
**Readings:** Walton and Smith: Chapter 11

**Wednesday, March 20th** – Does Race Matter in Elections? Part 2  

**Friday, March 22nd** – Video: Street Fight Part 1  
**Readings:** None

**Readings:** Jeffries, Judson. *US Senator Edward W. Brooke and Governor L. Douglas Wilder Tell Political Scientist How Blacks can Win High Profile Statewide Office* (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)  
**Wednesday, March 27th** Transcending Race: Are Some Blacks More Electable than Others? Part 2  
**Readings:** Gillespie, Andra. *Whose Black Politics*? Chapter 1

**Friday, March 29th** – Video: Street Fight Part 1  
**Readings:** None
Monday, April 1st – Descriptive and Substantive Representation: Should Blacks Represent Blacks?
Readings: Tate Chapter 1

Wednesday, April 3rd – Blacks in Elected Office: Do Blacks Legislate Differently From Whites?
Readings: Tate Chapter 4

Friday, April 5th – Cooperative Learning Assignment 4: Opposition to Descriptive Representation
Readings:
Student 1: Swain, Carol. Black Faces, Black Interests Chapter 1
Student 2: Swain, Carol. Black Faces, Black Interests Chapter 9

Monday, April 8th – View From the Voters: Do Black Voters Prefer Black Representatives
Readings: Tate Chapter 6

Wednesday, April 10th – Black Political Empowerment Part 1
Readings: Tate Chapter 7

Friday, April 12th – No Class-Midwest Political Science Conference

Monday, April 15th – Black Political Empowerment Part 2
Readings: Tate Chapter 7

Special Topics in Black Politics

Wednesday, April 17th – Intersectionality: Do Black Men and Women Have a Different Political Perspective?
Readings: Gay, Claudine and Katherine Tate. Doubly Bound: The Impact of Gender and Race on the Politics of Black Women (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Friday, April 19th – Music and Black Politics.
Readings: Spence, Lester. Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics Chapter 3 (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Monday, April 22nd – Conflict or Cooperation: Blacks and the Growing Latino Community
Readings: Walton and Smith: Chapter 7

Wednesday, April 24th – Religion and Black Politics
Readings: Wilcox, Clyde and Leopoldo Gomez. Religion, Group Identification, and Politics among American Blacks (Posted on Desire 2 Learn)

Friday, April 26th – Black Politics in the Age of Obama
Monday, April 29th – Cooperative Learning Assignment 5: Debate Preparations
Readings: Students Must Bring and Present an Academic Article or 3 Popular Articles about Their Topic and Summarize/Teach the Main Ideas of These Articles to Their Debate Group Members.

Wednesday, May 1st – Debate #1: Is Obama Good for Black Politics?
Readings: None

Friday, May 3rd – Debate #2: Will Race Continue to Be Important for African Americans?
Debate #3: Can the Republican Party Garner More of the Black Vote?
Readings: None

Tuesday, May 7th 5:50-7:50pm – Final Exam