

Term: Spring 2012

Course Title: Blacks and the American Political System

Course Prefix: POSC

Course No.: 2213

Section No.:P01

Department of | **Division of Social Work,
Behavioral and Political
Sciences**

College of | **Brailsford College of Arts and
Sciences**

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| Prairie View, TX 77446

Office Hours: | **MWF 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Virtual Office Hours: |

Course Location: | May Building- Home Economics Room 125

Class Meeting Days & Times: | **MWF 11:00 AM -11:50 AM**

Catalog Description: | Course offers a critical analysis of the position of blacks in the American politico-economic system, both historically and contemporarily.

Prerequisites: | **None**

Co-requisites: | **None**

Required Text: | **American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom (6th edition) 2011**

Recommended Text/Readings: |

Access to Learning Resources: | PVAMU Library:
| phone: (936) 261-1500;
| web: <http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/>
| University Bookstore:
| phone: (936) 261-1990;
| web: <https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

Course Goals or Overview:

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive analysis of black politics in America. The dynamics of the black political experience are highlighted in this course, including race and American politics, political behaviorism, coalition movements, interest groups, parties and elections, American political institutions, and public policy. This course also explores African American issues and government responses to black political initiatives and participation.

Course Outcomes/Objectives	Political Science Program Learning Outcomes	Core Objectives
Identify, define, understand and use concepts and terms relevant to the study of African American political life	PLO2: Knowledge of political concepts, principles, of political science.	Social Responsibility
Trace the development of black politics and African American political issues since the founding of the American republic to the present	PLO3: Critical thinking skills on political issues.	Critical Thinking
Provide a framework for analysis encompassing data for the scientific study of African American politics	PL04: Demonstrate research and writing skills.	Empirical/ Quantitative Skills
Apply a body of knowledge relevant to understanding the contemporary role of race in American politics	PLO1: Knowledge of institutions pertaining to government	Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility
Analyze empirical evidence relevant to evaluating different viewpoints on the role of race and politics in the United States	PLO3: Critical thinking skills on political issues.	Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility.
Evaluate the impact of black participation on American politics and public policy	PLO1: Knowledge of institutions pertaining to government.	Critical Thinking
Recognize and understand unique aspects African Americans political behavior and voting trends.	PLO3: Critical thinking skills on political issues.	Empirical / Quantitative Skills
Apply alternative explanations for different types and levels of political involvement for African Americans in the United States	PLO3: Demonstrate research and writing skills.	Critical Thinking
Analyze the political resources of black politicians in the political arena and implications for public policies.	PLO4: Demonstrate research and writing skills.	Communication
Highlight the implications of black public officials' presence in the legislative, executive and judicial institutions and administrative agencies	PLO1: Knowledge of institutions pertaining to government.	Communication

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – Four written examinations will be administered and are designed to measure knowledge of course materials.

Exercises – Written assignments and oral presentations are designed to supplement and reinforce course materials. The quantitative skills core objective will be assessed herein as empirical and quantitative data on voting trends will be analyzed with implications for demographic and socioeconomic factors on variations in voter participation.

Projects – A research paper is required for the course. The paper is designed to present scholarly research on a topic in study of African American politics. The research paper will be used to assess the critical thinking, social responsibility and communication core objectives.

Class Participation – daily attendance and participation in class discussions is encouraged

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Total
First Exam	10%
Second Exam (Midterm)	20%
Third Exam	10%
Exercises/Class Participation	20%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total:	100%

Grade Determination:

A = 90 – 100pts

B = 80 – 89pts

C = 70 – 79pts

D = 60 – 69pts

F = below 59

Course Procedures

Submission of Assignments:

The Research Paper is due on April 20, 2012 and must conform to elements of the rubric, which is attached as an appendix to this syllabus.

Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week One: 01/17/12-01/20/12

Foundation: Race and Politics in America

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 1

Assignment (s): NA

Week Two: 01/23/12-01/27/12

Federalism and the African American Community

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 2

Assignment (s): NA

Week Three: 01/30/12-02/03/12

Black Political Culture and Politics and America

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 3

Assignment (s): NA

Week Four: 02/06/12-02/10/12

Political Socialization of African Americans

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 4

Assignment (s): NA

Week Five: 02/13/12-02/17/12

Review and Exam 1

Chapter (s):

Assignment (s): Exam 1

Week Six: 02/20/12-

Public Opinion of African Americans

02/24/12

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 5
Assignment (s): NA

Week Seven: African Americans and the Media

02/127/12-03/02/12

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 6
Assignment (s): NA

Week Eight: 03/05/12-03/09/12 Social Movements and African American Coalition Politics

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 7
Assignment (s): NA

Review and Mid Term (Exam 2)

Week Nine: 03/12/12 – 03/16/12

Interest Groups and African American Politics

Chapter (s): Textbook, Chapter 8
Assignment (s): NA

Week Ten: 03/19/12 – 3/23/12

Political Parties and the African American Electorate

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 9
Assignment(s): NA

Week Eleven: 03/26/12 – 03/30/12 African American Voting Behavior

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 10
Assignment(s): NA

Week Twelve: 04/02/12 – 04/06/12 Review and Exam 3

African American and the Presidency

Chapter(s): Textbook Chapter 12
Assignment(s):

Week Thirteen: African Americans and Congressional Politics

04/09/12 – 04/13/12

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 11
Assignment(s): NA

Week Fourteen: African Americans and the Presidency

04/16/12 – 04/20/12

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 12
Assignment(s): NA

Week Fifteen: 04/23/12 – 04/27/12 African American and the Judiciary

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 13
Assignment(s):

Week Sixteen: Review and Final Exam Period Begins

04/30/12 – 05/04/12

African Americans: Domestic and Foreign Policy

Chapter(s): Textbook, Chapter 14 & 15
Assignment(s): Go to pvamu.edu/registrar for final exam schedule.

Final Exams: TBA

University Rules and Procedures

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook and description below). The lowest score between exams 1-3 will be dropped. You cannot drop the final exam grade. Exams are **NOT** cumulative. Students must bring their own scantron and pencil on exam days. No hats—for women or men—are allowed on exam days. I will not grade your exam unless all these policies are followed.

Submission of Writing Assignments Policy: All written assignments must be typed, in 10- or 12-point font, double-spaced and stapled only (if more than one page). All assignments are due in hard copy on their assigned due date. No late assignments will be taken under any circumstances. Students cannot turn in other student's assignments. Only assignments turned in during class will be accepted for grading. Assignments sent via email, slipped under my office door or stuck in my campus mailbox will NOT be accepted for grading. Assignments do not need a cover page, but they do need a title. I will not grade a written assignment unless all these policies are followed. Papers are graded according to the following three criteria: organization, content and quality of writing. An example of the rubric used to grade the final paper is attached at the end of this paper.

Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person's words and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course); | 2. Letter of Reprimand |
| 3. Probation | 4. Suspension |
| 5. Dismissal | 6. Expulsion |

Students must consult the University's Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the specific punishment. *Please call (936) 261-2525.*

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid, documented excuse. Valid excuses include illness, school or business trips, or family crisis. Beyond documented valid excuses, there will be no makeup assignments or late assignments taken. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of four (4) class days to schedule a make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** You must provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment (such as a note from a university official, doctor, police officer or coach). Student athletes must notify me **BEFORE** they attend an event to represent the school and **MUST** be proactive in getting their assignments completed. **Email will not be accepted as notification.** Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. Extra credit of any form cannot be made up.

Grade Groveling Policy: Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students **earn** high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no "do-overs" allowed.

Formatting Documents: Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. All writing assignments must use acceptable citation style and document all sources. **No assignments will be accepted via email under any circumstances.**

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:

- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins
- Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
 - Sending and receiving email
 - A working knowledge of the Internet
 - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
 - Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
 - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

Communication Expectations and Standards:

All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following my receipt of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

Discussion Requirement:

Because this is an online course, there will be no required face to face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be

copied and pasted to the discussion board.

Include Rubric Here