

**GE Cluster 60CW – Sem 4 - Political Party Position Change in the 1960s
Spring 2016 Quarter**

1. Instructor

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2. Class Time, Location, and Credit: Tuesday, 12-2:50pm Public Affairs 1343 3.0 hours

3. Course Description: Examination of the change in policy positions of the Republican and Democratic Parties between 1954 and 1974, specifically regarding minority civil rights. Students come to understand how the civil rights movement, labor policy, war, business, and party vote-seeking strategies played central roles in the two parties’ reversal of some of their previous positions; how the Party of Lincoln came to fight for segregation while the party of the White South became the defender of minority civil rights. We will examine the parties and the progress of civil rights over the post-Reconstruction period, the Depression, the Civil Rights Era, and then we’ll look at other issues that produced party platform changes from the 60’s to today.

4. Course Text Books: Reading materials will be provided for download via the course website.

5. Course Web Site: Access to the course website will be required to download assigned course materials. <https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/16S-GECLST60CW-4>

6. Class Participation: Students are expected to come prepared for class and actively participate in class discussions. To receive maximum credit, students must attend all classes and as participate by volunteering answers and opinions during discussion. Active participation makes the class more enjoyable and enhances learning!

7. Reading Assignments: There will be varied reading assignments throughout the course. Reading the assigned material is important for comprehension and understanding of the course material, as well as crucial for doing well on the final exam.

8. Discussion Forum: Beginning Week 2, each student will participate in an online discussion forum every week. Before 5pm each Friday, students will post a response to any part of the following week’s reading assignments. Posts should not be a restatement of what was in the reading, but rather a response to the reading. Before 5pm each Monday, students will post a response to another student’s post. Posts should include proper spelling and grammar, and they should be at least 100 words in length. Participation in the discussion forum will be included in the course participation grade.

9. Film Screenings: There are three films you will need to watch in order to complete the homework assignments during the course. We will have evening screenings of the films for all students, but, if needed, students will be provided instructions for viewing these films on their own.

10. Written Assignment:

- a. Throughout the term, class readings and discussions will focus on the changing demographics and economic fortunes of African Americans during the 20th Century. Other areas of focus will include the introduction of the Conservative Right and “modern” civil rights issues like gay rights and immigration reform. An overarching concept is the adaptation of the major political parties to changes in the electoral environment in order to maximize vote share. As a student in the 21st Century, you may be able to think of ways in which you expect the demographic, economic, technological or other circumstances of the United States to change in the near future, and how that might affect the political environment.
- b. Your assignment:
 - i. Make some predictions about how the life in the United States is going to change over the next 5-25 years (technology, demographics, economics, social issues, or something else). Provide justification for why you think this is a reasonable assumption/prediction.
 - ii. Based on your predictions and your knowledge of political parties from the class, discuss how you think these changes may positively or negatively affect the ability of politicians from each party to win elections.
 - iii. Place yourself in the position of advisor or strategist for one political party (Republican, Democrat, or other). Offer a plan, grounded in the party’s current platform, for the party to adapt to your predicted changes in order to remain electorally competitive. Try to use examples from past changes in the party’s coalitions and positions, as well as their strategic efforts to increase their vote share.
- c. You may reference any materials used in the course. You must reference at least four publications from outside the course, and at least two of these must be print publications. These references should contribute substantively to your argument in some way. The Wikipedia website is **NOT** an authorized source, though you may use it as a tool for identifying avenues of research.
- d. Each student will prepare 5-7 page paper. Evaluation will be based on understanding of political coalition building, strength of argument, logic, content, organization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and format. The paper will be due at the beginning of class on Week 10.
- e. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with 1" margins on all sides. You should use a clear 12 pt. font that is highly readable. Pages should be numbered. Pages should be stapled together when students turn them in. Other types of binding or folders are neither required nor desired.

11. Final Exam:

- a. The questions on the final exam may consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, or essay questions. Test questions are based on the assigned readings and/or in the material presented in class.
- b. The final examination is comprehensive and given during finals week. The exam will be time limited and administered on-line.

12. Grading Criteria

- a. **Letter Grades:** Your grade in this class is based on your performance and will be calculated on the following scale:

93 – 100 %	A	90 – 92.9 %	A-
87 – 89.9 %	B+	83 – 86.9 %	B
80 – 82.9 %	B-	77 – 79.9 %	C+
73 – 76.9 %	C	70 – 72.9 %	C-
67 – 69.9 %	D+	63 – 66.9 %	D
60 – 62.9 %	D-	59.9% - below	F

- b. **Assignment weighting:** Student assignments and exams will be individually graded and combined using the following weights to determine the final course grade.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>(% of overall grade)</u>
Class Participation	20%
Homework (4)	20%
Written Assignment	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

- c. **Missed/Late assignments:**

- i. If you miss an exam or assignment turn-in, expect to receive a grade of zero for that graded event.
- ii. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing an assignment due date, you must coordinate with instructor before the due date to make alternate arrangements. If your absence is caused by an unforeseeable circumstance, contact the instructor as soon as possible to coordinate. Student failure to make arrangements for turn-in of missed assignments within one week of the excused absence will result in a zero grade for the assignment.
- iii. Late turn-ins will be deducted 10% per day late. Assignments will be considered a day late if they are not turned in at the beginning of the class period during which they are due.

13. **Academic Freedom:** The class will observe a non-attribution policy for all students, the instructor, and any guests. We will be covering a number of controversial issues and students are encouraged to share their positions on these issues as well as their reasoning for having their position, but they must always do so with an attitude of respect and openness to other's opinions. Disrespectful statements toward others will not be tolerated.

Week	Date	Lesson / Activity	Reading	Assignment Due
1	03/29/16	Introductions The Political Spectrum Ideology and Spatial Politics	Bender - The Political Spectrum, Ch 1,3 Eagles - The Institutions of Liberal Democratic States, Ch 4	
2	04/05/16	The South During Reconstruction Jim Crow Party Leaders on Civil Rights	Pilgrim - What Was Jim Crow? Roosevelt - Lincoln and the Race Problem O'Reilly - The Jim Crow Policies of Woodrow Wilson DuBois - President Harding and Social Equality	Homework #1 - Political Positions Before 1920
3	04/12/16	The Black Migration Black Life in the North The Black Labor Movement	Wilkerson - NPR Interview (Audio) Baskerville - Heading North Baker - Following the Color Line Freund - Colored Property	
4	04/19/16	Early Civil Rights Legislation WWII and Military Integration Brown v Board of Education	Smith - Turning Point for Labor Lawson - Debating the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968 MacGregor - Integration of the Armed Forces	
5	04/26/16	Democrats, Republicans, and Dixiecrats	Molyneaux - The South's Political Plight Frederickson - The Dixiecrat Revolt	
6	05/03/16	The Civil Rights Act of 1964 The Voting Rights Act of 1965	King - Why We Can't Wait Loevy - A Brief History of the Civil Rights Act "Selma"	Homework #2 - Politics in "Selma"
7	05/10/16	The Southern Strategy	Boyd - It's All In The Charts Murphy & Gulliver - Southern Strategy Phillips - The Emerging Republican Majority	
8	05/17/16	The Religious Right and Abortion	"God in America" McKeegan - The Politics of Abortion Phillips - How the GOP Became God's Own Party	Homework #3 - God and Politics
9	05/24/16	Gay Rights	Karol - Party Position Change on Gay Rights "Sin, Sex, and Science - The HIV/AIDS Crisis" "The Normal Heart"	Homework #3 - Politics in "The Normal Heart"
10	05/31/16	Immigration The Tea Party	Wolgin & Garcia - Immigration... Political Landscape Skocpol - The Tea Party and...Republican Conservatism Parker & Barreto - Change They Can't Believe In	Term Paper
	TBD	Final Exam		