

Political Science 3703  
African American Politics

Spring 2008

Instructor, Kevin Anderson  
Lecture: 2140 Coleman Hall  
Office: 2331 Coleman Hall  
Phone: 217-581-2619  
E-Mail: [kranderson@eiu.edu](mailto:kranderson@eiu.edu)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to analyze how African Americans have interacted with the American political system. It will provide an overview of the roles and processes by which African Americans have engaged the political system in the United States as well as consider the historical background and context of the constitutional framework and broad interactions with the major institutions of American Government. This course will also study the role of political parties, elections, and social movements in the development of African American political activity.

**Required Texts**

Walton Hanes & Robert Smith. **American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Longman Publishers 2005.

Gilliam Franklin. **Farther to Go: Readings and Cases in African American Politics** 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Wadsworth Publishers 2001

**Class Attendance:** Your attendance will be critical to your success. If you must miss a class, it will be your responsibility to obtain any missed lecture notes; I will not go over lecture material again. **Special Note:** The format of this class lends itself to open class discussion and I welcome all relevant insights into the topic of the day however, I do not want the class to be dominated by one person, or reduced to a shouting match. Come prepared to discuss the topic of the day (and only that) by reading the assigned materials.

\* Please respect your classmates by turning off all Cell Phones and other electronic devices when you enter class and leaving them off until class ends.

**Reading Assignments**

Students are expected to complete all assigned reading assignments prior to the class in which a topic will be discussed.

## Exams/Papers

There will be two (2) exams in this class; a midterm exam and a final exam worth 100 points each. The exams may contain essays, short answers, and identification questions. I will discuss the format of the exam before it is administered. There will also be a written review of a Classic work in African American Studies. (A list is provided for students to choose from) This review will be a written piece of 5-7 pages and will be worth 100 points.

Make-Up Exams: Make-Up Exams will be given only when a valid excuse has been presented. Please notify your Instructor as soon as possible if you miss an exam.

Academic Honesty: Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper will receive an 'F' for that exam or paper and will be reported to university administrators for disciplinary action. In short: DON'T CHEAT!

Learning Disabilities/Special Needs: Students with disabilities who require special accommodation are encouraged to meet with the Instructor during the first week of class. If you need any special assistance to learn in this class, please notify me and steps will be taken to assist you. For further assistance or information, please contact the EIU Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

Important Dates to Remember:

January 19, 2008-Last day to drop a course without a grade

March 28, 2008-Last day to withdraw from a course

March 5, 2008-Midterm Exam

April 30, 2008- Final Exam

## Reading Assignments

### **Week 1: Introduction**

#### Africans in America

Walton and Smith: Chapter 1

### **Week 2: American Politics and African Americans**

#### The Constitution, Slavery, and the Question of Black Freedom

Gilliam: Chapter 1, John Hope Franklin and Alfred Moss: From Slavery to Freedom  
Chapter 1, The Constitution of the United States: Article I Section 3,  
Article II Section 9, Article IV Section 2

### **Week 3: Reconstruction and the Birth of Black Political Participation Part 1**

*The Civil War, African American Electoral Activity and the Rise of Jim Crow*

Walton and Smith: Chapter 2

Gilliam Chapter 2: *The Emancipation Proclamation*,

Gilliam Chapter 2: *The Constitution of the United States; Amendments 13-15*

### **Week 4: Reconstruction and the Birth of Black Political Participation Part 2**

Gilliam Chapter 2, Eric Foner: *The Meaning of Freedom*,

Gilliam Chapter 2: *Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896)*

### **Week 5: Political Behavior and Racial Politics Part 1**

*African American Political Culture and Socialization*,

Walton and Smith: Chapters 3 and 4

Gilliam Chapter 7, Molefi Asante: *The Afrocentric Idea in Education*

Gilliam Chapter 7, W.E.B. Du Bois: *The Talented Tenth*,

Gilliam Chapter 7, Shelby Steele: *The Content of our Character*

### **Week 6: Political Behavior and Racial Politics Part 2**

*Media and Public Opinion as a Foundation of Interest Articulation, Electoral Activity*

Walton and Smith: Chapters 5, 6, and 10

Gilliam Chapter 7, Booker T. Washington: *The Atlanta Exposition Address*

Gilliam Chapter 7, Cornel West: *Race Matters*

### **Exam 1 March 5th, 2008**

*Spring Break March 10-14<sup>th</sup>*

### **Week 7: Political Institutions and Racial Politics Part 1**

*Representing Race: Legislative Politics and Electoral Behavior; Equal Treatment under the Law*

Walton and Smith: Chapter 11

Gilliam Chapter 9, Carol M. Swain: *The Future of Black Representation*

Gilliam Chapter 9, Lani Guinier: *The Representation of Minority Interests*

Gilliam Chapter 9, Kenny J. Whitby and Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. *Representation in Congress: Line Drawing and Minorities*

## **Week 8: Political Institutions and Racial Politics Part 1**

### *Bureaucracy and Racial Politics, Political Parties and Interest Groups*

Walton and Smith: Chapters 14, 8, and 9

Gilliam Chapter 9, Thomas Byrne Edsall with Mary D. Edsall: *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics*

## **Week 9: Political Institutions and Racial Politics Part 2**

### *Responding to a Racial Agenda: Presidential Politics*

Walton and Smith: Chapter 12

Gilliam: Chapter 9, Robert C. Smith: *We Have No Leaders: African Americans in the Post-Civil Rights Era*

Gilliam Chapter 9, Jesse Jackson: *Address to the 1984 Democratic Convention*

Gilliam: Chapter 9, Renee M. Smith: *The Public Presidency Hits the Wall: Clinton's Presidential Initiative on Race*

## **Week 10: Political Institutions and Racial Politics Part 2**

### *Adjudication and Race: Judicial Politics*

Walton and Smith: Chapter 13

Gilliam Chapter 9, Girardeau A. Spann: *Race against the Court: The Supreme Court and Minorities in Contemporary America*

Gilliam Chapter 9, Stephen F. Smith: *On Justice Clarence Thomas*

## **Week 11: African American Strategies for Agenda Setting and Racial Representation Part 1**

### *Racial Mobilization: The Civil Rights Movement*

Walton and Smith: Chapter 7

Gilliam Chapter 3, *Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)*

Gilliam Chapter 4, Martin Luther King Jr.: *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

Gilliam Chapter 4, *Civil Rights Act (1964) Voting Rights Act (1965)*

## **Week 12: African American Strategies for Agenda Setting and Racial Representation Part 2**

### *The Emergence of Black Power*

Gilliam Chapter 5, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: *Position Paper: The Basis of Black Power*

Gilliam Chapter 5, Black Panther Party: *Black Panther Party Platform and Program*

Gilliam Chapter 5, Elaine Brown: *A Woman's Revolution*

## **Week 13: Contemporary Issues in African American Politics Part 1**

### Public Policy

Walton and Smith Chapter 15

Gilliam Chapter 10, William Julius Wilson: *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*

Gilliam Chapter 10, Marc Mauer: *Race to Incarcerate*

Gilliam Chapter 10, Michael Dawson: *Behind the Mule*

## **Week 14: Contemporary Issues in African American Politics Part 2**

### Urban Government

Gilliam Chapter 8, Lawrence D. Bobo and Franklin Gilliam Jr.: *Race, Socio-Political Participation and Black Empowerment*

Gilliam Chapter 8, Aldon Morris: *The Future of Black Politics: Substance versus Process and Formality*

Gilliam Chapter 8, Raphael Sonenshein: *The Battle of Liquor Stores in South Central Los Angeles: The Management of an Interminority Conflict*

## **Week 15: A Question of Racial Justice**

### Reparations, and the Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Black America

Gilliam Chapter 6, Ellis Cose: *Twelve Steps Toward a Race-Neutral Nation*

Gilliam Chapter 6, Derrick Bell: *The Racial Preference Licensing Act*

Gilliam Chapter 4, Malcolm X: *Message to the Grassroots*

*Summary and Review*

**Book Reviews Due: April 23, 2008**

**Final Exam Wednesday April 30th, 2008 2:45-4:45**

## **Books acceptable for Review**

This list is not exhaustive and any books not listed here must be approved by the instructor.

### **Novels:**

Toni Morrison: Beloved

Margaret Walker: Jubilee

Richard Wright: Native Son

Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man

James Weldon Johnson: The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man

John Oliver Killens: Youngblood

Ernest J. Gaines: A Lesson Before Dying

Zora Neal Hurston: Their Eyes Are Watching God

Charles Johnson: The Dreamer

James Baldwin: If Beale Street Could Talk

John Edgar Wideman Philadelphia Fire

### **Non-Fiction**

Malcolm X: The Autobiography of Malcolm X

E. Franklin Frasier: Black Bourgeoisie

James Baldwin: The Fire Next Time

W.E. B. Du Bois: The Soul of Black Folks

Martin Luther King Jr.: Why We Can't Wait  
Class

Angela Davis: Women, Race, and

Walter Mosley: Workin on the Chain Gang: Shaking Off the Dead Hand of History

Adolph Reed Jr.: The Jesse Jackson Phenomenon

Adolph Reed Jr. Stirrings in the Jug: Black Politics in the Post Segregation Era

Charles Mills: The Racial Contract

Dean Robinson: Black Nationalism in American Politics and Thought

Harold Cruse: The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual

Randall Robinson: The Debt

Henry Louis Gates and Cornel West: The Future of the Race

Derrick Bell: Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism

Frantz Fanon: The Wretched of the Earth

Cornel West Democracy Matters

Charles Hamilton and Kwame Ture: Black Power

Peniel Joseph: Waiting Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America

David Levering Lewis: W.E.B. Du Bois: (Volume 1) Biography of a Race 1868-1919; (Volume 2) The Fight for Equality and the American Century 1919-1963

Taylor Branch: (3 Part Trilogy; Students must read one of the Three):

Parting the Waters; America in the King Years 1954-1963

Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-1965

At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years 1965-1968

Stephen Steinberg: Turning Back: The Retreat from Racial Justice in American Thought and Policy

Michael K. Brown (Ed.) Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society

Thomas Sowell: Civil Rights: Rhetoric or Reality?