The New South: From Civil Rights to the Era of Republican Dominance

Syllabus

Instructor

Clinton Stockwell

Email

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Quarter: Autumn 2023
Start – end date: September 27 – November 15
Session day/time: Wednesday, 1:30 – 4:00 pm CT
Course Code and Section: HUAS90938 23A1

Course Overview

Following the Brown decision of 1954 and challenges to Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement began to dominate the politics of the South, both in its promotion and backlash. This course will consider the complexity of Southern culture, the legacy of Civil Rights and the efforts of Whites to reverse Civil Rights legislations through a “Southern Strategy” and dominance of the Republican Party in the South.

Course Goals

1. To note the impact of the Brown decision with respect to Jim Crow, segregation, and the practice of “separate but equal” in Southern public institutions.
2. To assess the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement during the King years and the aftermath.
3. To describe the impact of the Southern Strategy from Presidents Nixon to Trump to establish a white cultural hegemony through the dominance of the Republican Party in the South.
4. To note the contradictions and possibilities for a New South that has the potential to overcome its many divisions and conflicts over issues of race, gender, and social class distinctions.

Required texts


Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](https://www.chicagobooth.edu/bookstore/).

### Course readings

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>The Burden of Southern History. Life in the Jim Crow South</td>
<td>Cobb, The South Since World War II. Chapter 1: Jim Crow. C. Van Woodward, <em>Burden of Southern History</em>, chapters 1-7 Hawkins, The Bible Told Me So (entirety)</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>The Brown Decision and Aftermath</td>
<td>Woodward, Burden, chapters 8-13 Reed, Jim Crow and its Afterlives (entirety) Cobb. Chapter 3-4 Changes and Making of the New South</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>The King Years: Part One- to March on Washington and Freedom Summers</td>
<td>Taylor Branch, <em>King Years</em>, chapters 1-10, pp 1-102. Cobb. Chapter 2. Civil Rights</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>The King Years. Part Two. King, LBJ and Vietnam</td>
<td>Branch, King Years, chapters 11-18, pages 103-192. Cobb, chapters 5-6. Politics in the South</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Southern Liberalism in the Clinton and Bush Presidencies</td>
<td>Perry, South to America, pp. 179-383. Cobb. Southern Identities. Chapters 9-10. White Women, Blacks, others</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>The Southernization of America-Appeal to the South in the Trump and Biden years.</td>
<td>Southernization of America, pp. 78-165. Cobb, chapter 12. The South and America</td>
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Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.