

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 205  
AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY  
SPRING SEMESTER 2008  
INSTRUCTOR: DR. F. CARL WALTON**

**CLASS TIME**

M-W-F – 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM  
Dickey Hall  
Room 141

**OFFICE HOURS**

M-W-F – 3:00 PM – 3:50 PM  
Tues. 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM and by  
appointment  
Dickey Hall Room 375  
Phone: 484-365-8125  
e-mail: [fwalton@lincoln.edu](mailto:fwalton@lincoln.edu)

**CREDIT HOURS – THREE**

**COURSE PREREQUISITES** – Political Science 101 or permission of the Instructor.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course explores the political history of African Americans. Techniques of political mobilization and organization are analyzed through the study of mass movements, political parties and established interest groups. The ability of the student to conduct such analysis will be examined through four examinations and a research paper.

**STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES**

1. Analyze African American political activity in the United States.
2. Compare and contrast political behavior on the Black community with that of other communities.
3. Articulate via written assignments and class discussions various phenomena and events that affect Black Americans.
4. Examine the work of and the impact of Black elected and non-elected leaders.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

Students are expected to attend each class and to read daily assignments prior to class. Members of the class are also responsible for materials placed on reserve and other readings that may be assigned during the semester. Finally, students are expected to maintain knowledge of current events by reading a national newspaper. The final course evaluation will be based on scores on four examinations and a research paper. Makeup examinations will not be administered and a late paper will not be accepted except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Professor. In either case, in order for the exception to apply, I must be contacted by phone or by e-mail within 24 hours of the exam or of the due date of the paper.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS – ASSESSMENT TOOLS**

EXAM I	15%	Fri. Feb. 1
EXAM II	20%	Mon. Feb. 25
EXAM III	20%	Wed. March 26
RESEARCH PAPER	25%	Fri. April 4
EXAM IV	20%	Finals Week

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Walton, Jr. Hanes and Robert C. Smith. American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom. 4th ed. New York: Pearson Longman. 2006.

Johnson, Ollie A. and Karin L. Stanford. Black Political Organizations in the Post Civil Rights Era. New Brunswick, New Jersey. Rutgers University Press. 2002.

## **Other Materials that may be placed on Reserve in the Langston Hughes Memorial Library**

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Collins, Patricia Hill. Black Sexual Politics. New York. Routledge. 2005.

Marable, Manning. Race, Reform and Rebellion. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Jackson: University Press Of Mississippi. 2007.

Walters, Ronald W. White Nationalism, Black Interests. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. 2003.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Turabian, Kate. A Manual for Writers

## COURSE OUTLINE STUDENT LEARNER OPPORTUNITIES

Wed. Jan. 9 – COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Fri. Jan. 11 – HANDOUT – “Black America and the Political System: The Politics of Uncertainty” from African Americans and the American Political System by Lucius Barker, Mack Jones and Katherine Tate

Mon.. Jan. 14 – Chapter 1 - Walton and Smith – “Universal Freedom Declared, Universal Freedom Denied: Racism, Slavery and the Ideology of White Supremacy In the Founding of the Republic”

Wed. Jan. 16 – Chapter 2 – Walton and Smith – “Federalism and the Limits of Universal Freedom”

Fri. Jan. 18 – Chapter 3 – Walton and Smith – “Political Culture”

**Mon. Jan. 21 – NO CLASS – M. L. KING HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE**

Wed. Jan. 23 – DISCUSSION – The Intersection of Political Culture and Popular Culture Through Music

Fri. Jan. 25 – Chapter 4 – Walton and Smith – “Political Socialization”

Mon. Jan. 28 – Chapter 5 – Walton and Smith – “Public Opinion”  
Chapter 6 – Walton and Smith – “African Americans and the Media”

Wed. Jan. 30 – REVIEW FOR EXAMINATION I

**Fri. Feb. 1 – EXAMINATION I**

Mon. Feb. 4 – Chapter 7 – Walton and Smith – “Social Movements and a Theory of African American Coalition Politics”

Wed. Feb. 6 – Chapter 8 – Walton and Smith – “Interest Groups”

Fri. Feb. 8 – Chapter 2 – Johnson and Stanford – “The NAACP in the Twenty-First Century” by Robert Smith

- Mon. Feb. 11 – Chapter 7 – Johnson and Stanford – “The SCLC: Beyond the Civil Rights Movement” by F. Carl Walton
- Wed. Feb. 13 – Chapter 8 – Johnson and Stanford – “Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition: Institutionalizing Economic Opportunity”  
By Karin L. Stanford
- Fri. Feb. 15 – Chapter 6 – Johnson and Stanford – “You’re Not Ready for Farrakhan: The Nation of Islam and the Struggle for Black Political Leadership, 1984-2000” by Claude Clegg
- Mon. Feb. 18 – Chapter 5 – Johnson and Stanford – “From Protest to Black Conservatism: The Demise of the Congress of Racial Equality” by Charles E. Jones
- Wed. Feb. 20 – Lecture: Other Civil Rights and Black Power Organizations
- Fri. Feb. 22 – REVIEW FOR EXAMINATION II
- Mon. Feb. 25 – EXAMINATION II**
- Wed. Feb. 27 – Chapter 9 – Walton and Smith – “Political Parties”
- Fri. Feb. 29 – NO CLASS - MIDTERM BREAK**
- Mon. March 3 – Chapter 10 – Walton and Smith – “Voting Behavior and Elections”  
**DUE DATE: TOPIC AND OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER**
- Wed. March 5 – DISCUSSION - Blacks and the 2006 Midterm Election Vote  
(Prepare for discussion by reading relevant newspaper/magazine articles)
- Fri. March 7 - Chapter 11 – Walton and Smith – “The Congress and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom”
- Mon. March 10 – Lecture: “The Congressional Black Caucus: Its Legislative Role and Prospects for the Future”
- Wed. March 12 – Chapter 12 – Walton and Smith – “The Presidency and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom”
- Fri. March 14 – NO CLASS – Southwest Political Science Association Conference**
- Mon. March 17 – DISCUSSION - A Black President: Is it Time?

Wed. March 19 – Chapter 13 – Walton and Smith – “The Supreme Court and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom”

**Fri. March 21 – NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK**

Mon. March 24 – DISCUSSION – Student Perspectives on Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas as United States Supreme Court Justices

**Wed. March 26 – EXAMINATION III**

Fri. March 28 – Chapter 14 – Walton and Smith - “The Bureaucracy and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom”

Mon. March 31 – Chapter 15 – Walton and Smith – “Domestic Policy and the African American Quest for Social and Economic Justice”

Wed. April 2 – Chapter 16 – Walton and Smith – “The African American Quest for Universal Freedom and U.S. Foreign Policy”

Fri. April 4 – Chapter 10 – Johnson and Stanford – “Black Political Leadership in the Post Civil Rights Era” by Akwasi B. Assensoh and Yvette Alex Assensoh

**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

Mon. April 7 - Chapter 11- Johnson and Stanford – “Where Do We Go From Here” by Valerie C. Johnson  
**REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAMINATION**

**Wed. April 9 – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Fri. April 11 – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Mon. April 14 – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Wed. April 16 – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Fri. April 18 – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**EXAMINATION IV - FINALS WEEK  
DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**\*\*The Professor Reserves the Right To Make Modifications To The Syllabus.**