

Political Science 3244
North Carolina Politics, Government and
Public Policy
Spring Semester 2010
Tuesday/ Thursday 2:00 p.m.

Thomas F. Eamon

One seeking a rational basis for a state might question the logic of this state called North Carolina. Perhaps it makes little sense in terms of geography or common experiences. Yet, the state is made all the more interesting by its diversity.

This course looks in depth at North Carolina culture, the evolution of its political system, and continuing debates in state politics. Elections and long term political trends are closely examined. The course is part of the sub-field of American politics which is found in the social science discipline of political science.

Course Requirements

Required Texts

Christopher A. Cooper and H. Gibbs Knotts, editors, The New Politics of North Carolina, 2008. UNC Press

Rob Christensen, The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics, 2008. UNC Press

David Cecelski and Timothy Tyson, Democracy Betrayed, 1998. UNC Press

Tests - *There will be three tests and a final examination.*

Test I – Thursday February 4

This will be an in-class essay in which you choose from a list of topics which I provide. You will know the topics a week in advanced.

Test II – Tuesday March 23

Test on readings, lectures and discussions- essay and identification in format.

Test III – Thursday April 22

Test on readings, lectures, and discussions from March 23. Test will be essay and identification in format.

Final Examination –

Take home exam due in classroom at **2:00 p.m. on Thursday May 6.**

Papers and Projects – There are two possibilities

1. Participate in a group project during the issues phase of the course. This would be followed by a short (8-10 page) individual paper.
2. A full length research and thought-oriented paper (20-30 pages). Subject to be arrived at in Consultation with instructor.

Grade Scale

- A – 93 – 100
- B – 85 – 92
- C – 70 – 84
- D – 60 – 69
- F – Below 60

Attendance Policy

Anyone missing over three classes is normally ineligible for a passing grade in the course.

Special needs falling under the Americans with Disabilities Act: Students requesting special accommodations based on disability must go to the Office of Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 before any accommodations may be made. Their office telephone is 737-1016.

Office: Brewster A-130

Official Office Hours:

Tuesday 3:15-4:30

Wednesday 10:00-1:15

Thursday 11:50-12:20

If I am in my office, you are always welcome whether or not it is an official office hour time. You are always welcome to call me, **office phone - (252) 328-1061; home phones: Durham - (919) 682-6486; Greenville – (252) 752-7543; cell phone – (919) 402-7810.** I prefer personal (voice) communication to E-mail communication. It is friendlier and more efficient. Also, it allows for a more immediate response.

Course Outline

Introduction to the course on January 12

- I. North Carolina Culture and Regionalism (January 14-19)
 - A. What's North Carolina
 - B. North Carolina culture in the context of the United States and the South
 - C. The geography of North Carolina
 - D. Economic stagnation and dramatic growth
 - E. The agonies of the recession 2008-10

- II. Political Evolution and Revolution (January 19- March 2)
 - A. A capsule of North Carolina political development
 - B. The politics of race
 - 1. From early times to Civil War to Wilmington
 - 2. The politics of segregation
 - 3. The civil rights battle and the decline of legal segregation
 - 4. Racial conflict and accommodations: 1965-2002
 - C. The politics of class and economics: Elitism, populism, and pluralism.
 - D. The early party system

- E. Democratic dominance amidst factionalism
 - 1. The plutocracy
 - 2. The Kerr Scott era
 - 3. Graham vs. Smith
 - 4. Strains in the 1950's
 - 5. The Sanford—Lake race as a defining event
 - 6. Terry Sanford: A paradoxical legacy
 - 7. Moore and Scott
 - 8. Republicans in era of Democratic dominance
- F. The rise of GOP
 - 1. The Republican base expands
 - 2. The pivotal years: 1972, 1984, 1994
 - 3. Republican dominance in presidential politics
- G. Helms and Hunt: The politics of issues and personality
- H. The Enigmatic Mike Easley
- I. 2008: A Revolution?
- J. The Politics of 2010

III. The Governmental Process (March 16-March 30)

- A. The legislature and inters group politics
- B. The governor and executive
- C. The courts
- D. The media and think tanks

IV. Issues Today (April 1 to end of course)

- A. Higher Education: It's ups and downs
- B. Elementary and secondary education
- C. Transportation, growth, and the environment
- D. The environmental threat on the coast
- E. The stain of scandal
- F. The politics of morality and Religious Fundamentalism