

Afro Caribbean American Politics (POS 4931/AFA 4931/LAS4931/POS 5933)

Fall 2025

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The University of Florida

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Dr. Austin's Office Hours: You may participate in office hours with Dr. Austin *both in person and via zoom* at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829> on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:40pm-1:40pm. I am available *only via zoom* at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829> on Mondays from 2pm-4pm. I am also available on other days and at other times by appointment only.

Course Description:

This course examines the political behavior of Caribbean Americans in the United States with an emphasis on Caribbean Americans of African descent (Afro Caribbeans). There are 13 sovereign nations in the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Many African Americans who have achieved prominence in civil rights and politics are of Caribbean origin. Candace Baker-Motley, Marcus Garvey, Kamala Harris, Malcolm X, Colin Powell, and Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) are some of the individuals we will analyze in the class. We will also discuss issues of concern to Afro Caribbeans both in the U.S. and in their home countries with an emphasis on Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. I welcome your feedback on the course if you have any questions or problems.

We will also participate in a virtual exchange project with faculty and students from Sheffield Hallam University's departments of global health, international relations, and sociology (located in Sheffield, England). We will focus on the themes of health inequalities, international human mobility, and Caribbean migration. At the end of the semester, you will watch lectures recorded by both me and their faculty members. On Thursday, November 6th you will participate in an online live session with their students during our class session. We will discuss the icebreaker activity

Course Objectives:

The learning objectives for the course are:

- Trace the history of major actors, developments, and political movements in African Americans politics since the modern civil rights movement.
- Distinguish the ideological and other differences between Democratic and Republican candidates.

- Explain the campaign tactics that African Americans used to win local, state, and national political offices.
- Determine whether African American women have been disadvantaged by both their race and gender when running for and serving in political offices.
- Detail the impact of public policies, such as affirmative action, on African Americans.

The Required Textbook:

The Caribbeanization of Black Politics: Race, Group Consciousness, and Political Participation. Sharon D. Wright Austin (New York: State University of New York Press, 2018).

The Reserve Articles can be found on the course reserves link on canvas.

Your Grade will be Based on:

1) Class Participation (10%)

Class participation and attendance are extremely important in this seminar. Each student is expected to read the assigned materials before class and participate in class discussions. After three unexcused classes are missed, you will not receive the percentage points for class participation. It is your responsibility to sign an attendance roster that will be given out at the beginning of each class session. If you forget to, sign it during the next class. Also, try to get to class on time.

2) Icebreaker (10%):

This activity will allow you to compare and contrast your background and experiences in your home communities with those of the Sheffield Hallam University students during our live session on Thursday November 6th.

3) Sheffield Hallam Assignment (20%):

After we examine interdisciplinary information about Black Caribbean Studies in the United Kingdom, you will complete an assignment that requires a summary of the lectures from Sheffield Hallam University Professors and my lecture on Health Discrimination and Scapegoating of Caribbean immigrants and citizens in America. I have included questions on canvas that you must answer to complete these assignment. The typed, double-spaced assignment must be at least five pages and have a 12-point Times New Roman font.

4) Class Material Papers (60% or 20% each)

You must write an approximately eight-page paper on the topics listed on canvas. This paper will require an analysis of the assigned readings, lectures, and other class materials on this topic and answer the questions that are listed on canvas. Please don't forget to include citations in your paper. Use parenthetical citations in the paper that include the person's last name, year of publication, and page number-i.e., (Wright, 2020, 20). Then, include a Bibliography page at the end of the paper that lists your sources. The sources can be formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, *M.L.A.*, or the *American*

Psychological Association (A.P.A.) format. See the sources in the textbooks for examples.

Grading Scale:

94-100 A	90-93 A-	87-89 B+	84-86 B	80-83 B-	77-79 C+
74-76 C	70-73 C-	67-69 D+	64-66 D	60-63 D-	Below 60 E

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

Disabilities Statement:

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)

Academic Dishonesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code can be accessed at the link below and specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

[<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>]

Counseling Services:

For help from the university counseling services and mental health services, call (352) 392-1575, see <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, or call the University Police Department [(352) 392-1111] or 9-1-1 for emergencies. You can also find help at the U Matter We Care site [<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>].

The Office of Academic Support:

The Office of Academic Support (OAS) provides support and enrichment services to all University of Florida (UF) students. OAS works in conjunction with several integral offices including the Offices of Admissions, Dean of Students, Academic Technology, Student Financial Affairs, Housing and Residence Education, Promise, and the Academic Advising Center to offer a thorough introduction and orientation to UF.

<https://oas.ua.ufl.edu/about-us/>

Course Evaluation:

At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals.

Class Schedule:

Caribbean Americans and the Presidency

- 8-21 **Introduction:**
Film: Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed discusses the 1972 presidential campaign of U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm who became the first African American, first African American woman to seek the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Chisholm's campaign organized a multiracial coalition that later influenced the campaigns of political candidates, including President Barack Obama.
- 8-26 Reserve Reading:
From Shirley Chisholm to Kamala Harris: The Caribbean American Voter Matters
- 8-28 Reserve Reading:
Colin Powell: The Candidate Who Wasn't
Film: The Choice 2024: Trump v. Harris discusses the lives and political careers of President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris.
- 9-2 Reserve Readings:
Resolve of a Revolutionary
Time to Go Green

The Issue of Immigration

- 9-4 Reserve Reading:
Beyond Glass Ceiling: Examining The Role of Racial Resentment, FIRE, and Hostile Sexism in Whites Evaluations of Vice President Kamala Harris
Film: Deport Them All: Who's to Blame for Springfield's Immigration Crisis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI66d8e74nM> discusses the plight of Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. This community received national attention after Donald Trump erroneously alleged that Haitian immigrants were "eating" cats. As a result, Haitian residents experienced harassment. Schools closed and Springfield's elected officials received numerous threats.

- 9-9 Reserve Reading:
Kamala Harris's Racial Identity and the Black Electorate
- 9-11 NO CLASS (American Political Science Association Meeting)
- 9-16 Reserve Reading:
What's Wrong with Temporary Protected Status and How to Fix It

Afro Caribbean Americans and Urban Politics
- 9-18 Reserve Reading:
8 Afro-Latinx Who Are Breaking Barriers in U.S. Politics
Film: Afro Latinx Revolution: Puerto Rico (36 minutes):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uM83LNZmWs> discusses racial identities in Puerto Rico and the experiences of Afro Puerto Ricans in America.
- 9-23 Reserve Readings:
The Group Consciousness of African Americans, Black Ethnicity, and Afro Latinos
- 9-25 **First Class Material Paper Due**
Reserve Reading:
Re-Narrating Mariel: Black Cubans, Racial Exclusion, and Building Community in Miami
- 9-30 Textbook Reading:
Chapter 1, Political Participation, Group Consciousness, and the Minority Group Model
Film: Back to the Movement is a segment of the Eyes on the Prize II documentary series that examines the migration of Mariel refugees during the late 1970s and early 1980s and racial polarization in the city during this time. The second part of the documentary explain how Harold Washington became the first African American mayor of the city of Chicago.
- 10-2 ***Today, we will meet online at at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829>.**
Title of Lecture: "The Score: Haitian Refugees, Survival and the Dream 1957-1986" Dr. Shafantae Desinord, UF and Howard University Doctoral Alumna. She is currently an Education and Interpretation Specialist for the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission. For more information, see <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shafantae-desinord-ph-d-622308132/>.
Textbook Reading:
Chapter 4, Moderate and Fragmented Black Political Incorporation in Miami-Dade County
- 10-7 Textbook Reading:
Chapter 3, Chicago Politics: Black Participation and the Need for a Progressive Coalition

- 10-9 ***Today, we will meet online at at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829>.**
Title of Lecture: “Politics and Culture in Jamaica,” Dr. Jermaine Young, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Howard University. For more information, see <https://profiles.howard.edu/jermaine-young>.
- 10-14 Reserve Reading:
 Using the Law for Social Change: Judge Constance Baker Motley
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/17458>
 The Politics of Health and Migration in the U.S. and the U.K.
- 10-16 **Second Class Material Paper Due**
Reserve Reading:
 Abortions Under Community Control: Feminism, Nationalism, and the Politics of Reproduction among New York City’s Young Lords chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpglclefndmkaj/<https://gws.illinois.edu/system/files/2022-05/Nelson%20Young%20Lords%20Abortion.pdf>
Textbook Reading:
 Chapter 5, Black Political Emergence in New York City: The Quest for African American, West Indian, and Haitian Unity
Film: Black Power: The Rise of the British Black Panther Party (23minutes) discusses the rise of the British Black Panther Party during the height of the Black Power Movement in Britain. For years, Black citizens enduring discrimination, but mobilized against it after a series of police abuses.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3VFV3ApWRY>
- 10-21 Title of Lecture: What Happens at Borders? Issues of Health and Equity, Professor Mabel Mixty Meneses Gutierrez, Lecturer of Postcolonial International Relations, Sheffield Hallam University. For more information, see <https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/staff-profiles/mitxy-mabel-meneses-gutierrez>.
- 10-23 Title of Lecture: The Health Discrimination and Scapegoating of Caribbeans, Professor Sharon Austin
Reserve Readings:
 Intersectionality: Mapping the Movements of a Theory
 ‘The H in HIV Stands for Human, Not Haitian’1: Cultural Imperialism in US Blood Donor Policy
Film: Windrush BBC TV 1998 (20 minutes) discusses the arrives of Jamaican immigrants in the UK during the World War II era. Because of the war, the country experiences workforce shortages, especially in the field of nursing. Great Britain invited these immigrants to their country to live and work. However, they encountered vehement bigotry.
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d:ac233e8b,vid:gdvEvT6-gqs,st:0

- 10-28 Title of Lecture: Caribbean Migration from Past to Present in the United Kingdom, Professor Nazmy Villarroel-Williams, Lecturer in Global Health, Sheffield Hallam University. For more information, see <https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/staff-profiles/nazmy-villarroel-williams>.
Reserve Reading:
Crossing the Darien Gap [<https://www.cfr.org/article/crossing-darien-gap-migrants-risk-death-journey-us>]
- 10-30 Title of Lecture: The Experiences of Immigrants of Color in the U.K., Professor Cinnamon Bennett, Professor of Sociology, Sheffield Hallam University. For more information, see <https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/staff-profiles/cinnamon-bennett#secondSection>.
Reserve Reading:
Cuban Migration Is Changing; The U.S. Must Take Note [<https://www.wola.org/analysis/cuban-migration-is-changing-us-must-note/>]
Reserve Reading:
Policing the Windrush Generation chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://oro.open.ac.uk/8922/1/pol-paper-print-45.pdf>
- 11-4 Reserve Reading:
'The rest of the world is watching.' London mayor cautions Americans against reelecting Trump <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/09/24/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-trump-election-00180846>
- 11-6 ***Today, we will meet online at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829>.**
Sheffield Hallam Ice Breaker Assignment: Today, we will participate in a Live Facilitated Session Online. Zoom Link tba.
- 11-11 NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)
- Civil Rights and the Law
- 11-13 **Sheffield Hallam Assignment Due**
Reserve Readings:

How Can a Black Woman Be a Republican?: An Intersectional Analysis of Identity Claims in the 2014 Mia Love Campaign
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21565503.2019.1629316>
Virginia Republicans worry about their gubernatorial candidate who invoked slavery when criticizing DEI <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/19/virginia-gop-winsome-earle-sears-worries-00357698>
Stokely Carmichael: Two Speeches on Black Power
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10510976809362897>
Film: The Time Has Come (40 minutes) is a segment of the Eyes on the Prize documentary series that examines Malcolm X's philosophy and the emergence of the Black Panther Party

11-18 Reserve Reading:

The Influence of Malcolm X on Black Militancy
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11-20 Presentation by Dr. Natanya Duncan "An Efficient Womanhood: Women and the Making of the UNIA"

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11-25 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

11-27 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

12-2 Discussion Continued (Catching up on any information postponed because of hurricane closures)

12-9 Final Class Material Paper Due