The Changing Structure of American Politics

Political Science 904/900, Special Topics in American Politics
Professor Byron Shafer, Fall Semester, 2014

Week #1, September 5. Introduction to the Changing Structure of American Politics.

A. The Disappearance of the Solid South

Week #2, September 12. Pictures of an Evolution.

V.O. Key, Jr., SOUTHERN POLITICS IN STATE AND NATION (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949) or New Ed. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1984); pp. 3-18 & 664-675; sample a state or two.


Week #3, September 19. Aggregate Evidence


Week #4, September 26. A Detailed Case

B. The Rise of Participatory Politics

Week #5, October 3. The Theory of Party Structure


Week #6, October 10. The Distribution of Party Structures


Week #7, October 17. The Dynamics of Party Structure.


**Week #8, October 24. Issue Evolution over Sixty Years**


**C. The Coming of Partisan Polarization**

**Week #9, October 31. Policy Issues and Partisan Polarization**


Week #10, November 7. The Social Structure of Partisan Polarization


Week #11, November 14. The Great Polarization Debate


Week #12, November 21. Great Debate: The Prosecution


Week #13, November 28. Thanksgiving Recess

Week #14, December 5. Great Debate: The Defense


Week #15, December 12. Refereeing the Debate