

HTST 462: Topics in U.S. Political History

Fall 2013

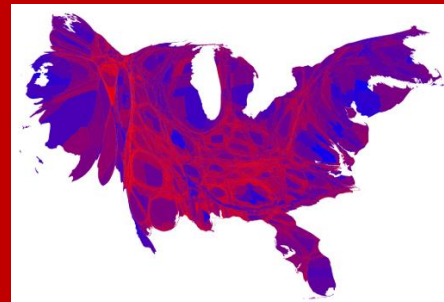
MWF 13:00-1350, EDC 287

Dr. Towers



Our theme is the battle between liberalism and conservatism in recent U.S. political history and its connections to American society. The course starts by looking at the heyday of liberalism under the Democratic Party in the middle of the 20th century and then moves to consider the rise of conservatism led by the Republican Party. We conclude by exploring the Obama presidency and the politics of the financial crisis, national security, and cultural pluralism. Throughout the course we will connect past patterns of U.S. politics to events happening today.

Each of the four books assigned for the course covers a different aspect of recent U.S. political history. Students will write an in-class midterm exam, a final exam, and a research paper on topic devised in consultation with the instructor. Additional credit may be assigned for class participation.



2012 election map proportional to population and local vote total.

Assigned books:

Jennifer Klein, *The Invisible Hand: The Businessman's Crusade Against the New Deal* (2010)

Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* (2010)

Robert O. Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s* (2012)

Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (2013)