

# HIST 4336: The Modern Conservative Movement in the United States

## Introduction:

During the presidential election of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson defeated the radically conservative Republican nominee, Barry Goldwater. Though the Republicans lost the election, Goldwater's candidacy served as a turning point for conservatism in the United States. Over the next two decades, conservatism became the base of the modern Republican Party.

By studying the changing dynamics of domestic policies, the impact of liberal, conservative, and activist organizations, and the evolution of communication, this course seeks to understand the roots of conservatism in America over the last fifty years.

**Instructor:** Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

**Email:** mdotson@uttyler.edu

**Office:** CAS 117

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:00-10:00 *or* by appointment

## Note on emails:

If you reach out to me during the week, I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. If you contact me during the weekend *or* during a scheduled university break, I will do my best to respond to you within 48 hours.

## Required Text:

Critchlow, Donald T. *The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History*.  
Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2011.

## Course Objectives:

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the significant political and social themes of the modern conservative movement
- Recognize and analyze the impact of non-elected leaders/activists within the modern conservative movement
- Outline the political narratives adopted by elected officials that shaped the conservative movement
- Identify and evaluate domestic policies promoted and opposed by supporters of the modern conservative movement

## Expectations and Etiquette:

It is expected that everyone in this course, including the instructor, will maintain respect for one another. I encourage you to form your own thoughts surrounding the course material, but please note that not everyone will share *all* of your sentiments. It is okay to disagree with someone, but it *will* be done respectfully and thoughtfully.

If the instructor determines that your behavior is inappropriate, you will be forwarded to the appropriate campus administrator and/or the campus police.

## Methods of Evaluation:

**Exams (45%):** There will be two major exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will include a variety of question formats, including, but not limited to short answer, true/false, multiple choice, and essay.

**Assignments (20%):** Throughout the course, students will read and evaluate primary documents. All documents and assignments will be provided and graded via Canvas.

**Research Paper (25%):** Each student will select a topic that is relevant to our course. Research papers are due by **11:59 pm on Friday, November 21**. Papers must meet the following parameters:

- You **must** use at least five academic secondary sources. You are encouraged, but not required, to utilize primary sources in your research.
- Your paper **must** be properly formatted in the Turabian/Chicago Style. Your paper should be double-spaced and written in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins.
- The final draft **must** be between six and ten pages. Please note that your cover page, footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography do **not** count towards your overall page length.
- One letter grade will be deducted for **every** calendar day the paper is late.

**Attendance (10%):** Attendance will be recorded during every formal class meeting. In an effort to account for emergencies and/or illnesses, each student will receive **six** excused absences. If you will be missing class due to a university-sponsored event, you **must** notify the instructor **prior** to the absence. Missing class for a university-sponsored event does **not** count towards your excused absences.

## Grade Scale:

## Key Dates\*:

A:	≥ 89.5	August 25:	First Day of Class
B:	79.5 – 89.4	September 1:	Labor Day/Campus Closed
C:	69.5 – 79.4	October 17:	Midterm
D:	59.5 – 69.4	November 3:	Last Day to Withdraw
F:	59.4 ≤	November 21:	Research Papers Due
		November 24-28:	Thanksgiving Break
		December 8-12:	Final Exam Week

**\*See Canvas for a weekly description of class topics.**

**Note: At the end of the semester, final grades will not be rounded up.**

## Assignment and Exam Parameters:

Students are **not** allowed to take exams early unless they are traveling for a university-sponsored event. Students are **required** to arrange work, travel, and social events around all assigned due dates. If you fail to complete an assignment by the designated due date, a penalty of ten points/calendar day will be applied.

There are **no** make-up exams in this course. If you fail to complete an exam, you will **automatically** receive a zero grade. Unless otherwise noted, you are **not** allowed to use any resources (internet, textbook, notes,

etc.) on exams. If the instructor determines you have violated this rule, you will **automatically** fail the exam. In the event this happens a second time, you will **automatically** fail the course.

## **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and This Course:**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is **not** permitted at all.