

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT GUEST
LECTURER:**

**William A. Link
Richard J. Milbauer Professor of History
University of Florida**

**Author of the newly released book:
*Righteous Warrior: Jesse Helms and
the Rise of Modern Conservatism***

***"Jesse Helms and a
Politics of Race"***

**Thursday, February 7, 2008
Gambrell 153 7:00 p.m.**

**Reception/Book Signing 5:30 p.m.
Gambrell Lobby**

Book Description

From an early age, Jesse Helms believed in extreme conservative causes, doctrinaire Christian worship and a mistrust of outsiders. In *Righteous Warrior*, William Link tells the life story of Jesse Helms and, subsequently, the story of a conservative revolution that finally captivated America at the end of the twentieth century. In his early days, Jesse Helms was a newspaperman, a radio commentator and a magazine editor. When he saw television for the first time, he realized the power he could command and, on tiny black and white screens waged battles with everything from civil rights to academic liberalism. In 1973, he was elected to the Senate where he remained until 2003 taking on everyone and everything that didn't tow the conservative party line and literally became the center of the conservative

movement, pushing conservative causes, linking up with wealthy donors and amassing more power than many Senators within memory. One could truly say that Jesse Helms was the conservative party in the U.S. In *Righteous Warrior*, Link gives us a complete historical portrait of the most powerful American political movement of the late twentieth century and shows how it was forged through the life of a man named Jesse Helms.

Advance Praise:

"Bill Link's masterful biography of Jesse Helms lays bare the roots of his conservative politics grounded in his white supremacist childhood and documents Helms's influence in shaping the course of national politics. Exhaustively researched and crisply written, Link proves Helms's importance to the Republican Party's southern strategy at home and his exportation of conservative southern values into U.S. foreign policy. This is fundamental reading for anyone interested in the rise of conservatism and politics in general in our time." -- **Glenda Gilmore, Peter V. And C. Van Woodward Professor of History, Yale University**

"Professor Link's fascinating political biography of Jesse Helms is also an authoritative study of the rise of the New Right. Through Helms's career, we see the knitting together of the various strands of conservatism that account for Ronald Reagan's triumph in 1980, the Republican Party's Congressional revolution of 1994, and much else. Vivid characters and important issues fill the pages of 'Righteous Warrior,' and the reader is eager to keep turning those pages."-- **Sheldon Hackney, Boies Professor of US History, University of Pennsylvania**

"Historian William Link captures in this incisive biography the complexity of Jesse Helms—a personally kind and charitable man who supported racial segregation; an affable and principled politician who played hard ball politics to get what he wanted; and a controversial symbol of the New Right in America, a hero to his followers and a demon to his enemies." --**Donald T. Critchlow, Author of *The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History***