**Ethnic Politics In America**  
**Ethnic Studies 151**  
**Fall 2004**

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**Office Hours:** Monday 11:30am-12:30pm  
Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00pm  
Or by appointment  
**Class Meets:** M-W-F, 1:00pm-1:50pm, Warren Lecture Hall 2111

***COURSE DESCRIPTION***
Politics in the United States have been inflected by race from settlement through expansion, slavery, and Civil Rights. Today ethnic communities continue to be both targets and agents of policy and political activism. At the same time, race and ethnic issues are regularly submerged and stripped of their significance in mainstream political discourse. This is perhaps nowhere more clear than in election year 2004, where current and past wars, national security, and budget disasters put civil liberties and the realities of democracy into crisis for many communities. This course examines how political discourses in the United States both elide and engage structures of race. The first half of the course uses the 2004 election as a laboratory to closely analyze subtle and overt uses of race in democratic and republican bids to direct the near political future of the nation. The second half of the course extends beyond electoral politics to consider how different groups within the United States conceive of politics. Students will be expected to learn how to apply critical race analysis to contemporary political issues.

***REQUIRED TEXTS***
Books available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625)  

*Articles listed below by week are available at UCSD Electronic Reserves.*

***GRADING***

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<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
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<td>Speech/Commercial script</td>
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<td>Election Watch Journal</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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**Attendance/Participation:** Required. Full credit requires no more than 2 excused or unexcused absences as well as attentive participation in all in class discussion and exercises. Attentive participation requires ACTIVE LISTENING to anyone speaking, ACTIVE SPEAKING during each class discussion, ENGAGED RESPECT for views that differ from your own, and HUMBLE, ACTIVE LEARNING, a willingness to move from knowing less but caring, to knowing more and caring more.
Speech/Commercial Script: (2-3 p. *firm* page limit, typed, double-spaced, 1-1.25” margins) This is a creative exercise allowing the student to bring insight and analysis from the course to bear on today’s campaign strategies, *citing a minimum of two outside sources*. Select one issue and write a speech or television/radio commercial script clarifying racial aspects of the issue and suggesting a clear action strategy. A speech may be intended for either presidential candidate, or may be from a constituency addressing either a republican or democratic national audience. A television commercial may be for either presidential candidate or a constituency addressing either party, and can use any speaking characters, dialog, or staged situations to dramatize the clear issue at hand.

Election Watch Journal: (½ p. per week, 10 weeks, handwritten entries are acceptable if legible, otherwise typed, single-spaced) Each week students will receive several suggested questions relating course materials to current developments in the presidential election. Students can choose from among those questions or design their own appropriate question and write a ½-1p freewrite response. Journal entries are *due each Friday* except Nov. 24, due on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. After Nov. 2, journal entries will focus on post-election coverage and debates falling out from the election.

Midterm and Final Examinations: The midterm and final will be cumulative, in-class, closed book, and closed-notes examinations. Students are required to supply their own bluebook(s) and pens.

ADA Statement: Any student with a disability or condition that compromises her ability to complete course requirements should notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor will take all reasonable efforts to accommodate those needs. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, notify the professor within one week of receiving syllabus.

Late or Make-up Assignments and Exams: Late assignments will not be accepted and there will be no make up exams except, perhaps, in extreme circumstances with appropriate documentation.

***DISCUSSION GUIDELINES***
This is primarily a course using theoretical and practical readings to guide our analysis of political issues. Understandably, the current political climate might trigger spirited and passionate feelings of many kinds, as well as reach into your personal and perhaps painful experiences, throughout the quarter. Our best discussions will engage analytic and emotive dimensions of the learning process, a process we must agree to share together in mutual care and solicitude. We must focus on clarifying issues and perspectives, increasing our capacity to analyze and synthesize various data and ideas we encounter, instead of proselytizing, demeaning, or adopting self-righteous moral high ground. Disrespectful, abusive, combative, or harsh language will not be tolerated in the classroom or in course assignments. Please focus on open-minded, engaged listening to your classmates, and sincere efforts to express your ideas as we embark on a collective process to deepen our understanding of how race and ethnicity inflect United States politics, and how we, as individuals and collectively, respond to these issues today.
***COURSE OUTLINE***

PART I – Race and Politics: 2004 Election Laboratory

WEEK ONE: RACE, ETHNICITY AND ELECTORAL POLITICS
(Sep. 27-Oct. 1)
☐ Claire Jean Kim Bitter Fruit (p. 1-52)

WEEK TWO: NATIONAL SECURITY
(Oct. 4-Oct. 8)

WEEK THREE: IMMIGRATION
(Oct. 11-Oct. 15)
☐ View “New World Border”
WEEK FOUR: WELFARE  
(Oct. 18-Oct. 22)  

*Speech/Commercial Script Due* (Friday, Oct. 22, 1:00pm)

WEEK FIVE: ALTERNATIVE PRESS  
(Oct. 25-Oct. 29)  
**TBA**  
**View “Farenheit 911”**  
**Midterm** (Friday, Oct. 29, 1:00pm-1:50pm)

PART II – Re-imagining Politics

WEEK SIX: COALITION POLITICS—ALLIANCE AND CRISIS 1  
(Nov. 1-Nov. 5)  
**Leland Saito Race and Politics (Mon p. 1-54; Wed p.55-124; Fri p.125-196)**

WEEK SEVEN: COALITION POLITICS—ALLIANCE AND CRISIS 2  
(Nov. 8-Nov. 12)  
**Claire Kim Bitter Fruit (Mon p.53-155; Wed p. 156-223)**

WEEK EIGHT: ACTIVISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
(Nov. 15-Nov. 19)  
WEEK NINE: SOVEREIGNTY AND REPARATIONS
(Nov. 22-Nov. 24)(Thanksgiving vacation Nov. 25-Nov. 26, NO CLASS FRIDAY)

WEEK TEN: POLITICS OF ART AND CULTURE
(Nov. 29-Dec. 3)

*Final Exam* (see schedule of classes)