Ethnic Politics in America
Ethnic Studies 151
Summer Session II 2009

Instructor: Long T. Bui
Office: Social Science Building 251
Mailbox: Dept. of Ethnic Studies, SSB 201
Email: ltbui@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12-1 pm (one hour after every class) or by appointment

Class Meets: M-W-F, 10:00am-11:50am, Social Science Building 103

***COURSE DESCRIPTION***
Guided by the message of hope and the unfinished struggle for social justice evoked by the recent election of Barack Obama, this course takes this rare opportunity to consider the changing contours of contemporary ethnic politics through public work and life of the first African American U.S. president. Ethnic politics in the current period has entered a new phase of development insofar as the most powerful man upon the global stage has become a celebrated figure of multicultural acceptance and “post-raciality” at a time when social conflicts of a racialized nature are taking on a heightened character. Here, we must ask what are the specific conditions, contexts and trajectories through which such conflicts manifest and how are they related to issues of globalization, modernity, colonization, slavery, immigration and empire? This course examines how political discourses and representations are built around certain constructions of marginalized communities and peoples. Students will be expected to learn how to apply a critical analysis to contemporary political issues.

***REQUIRED TEXTS***
Books available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625)
Article readings on e-reserves* and Assignments posted webct.ucsd.edu

***GRADING***
Attendance 10%
Participation 20 (includes class presentation)
Speech and Speech Presentation 15%
Speech Analysis 15%
Final 30%

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. Absences must be excused through notification. A 1 page single space analysis/critique of the texts on the day of the absence must be submitted as a makeup assignment.

Final Examinations: The final will be cumulative take-home essay
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.

WEEK ONE: The Politics of Knowledge
(Monday, August 3): The Politics of Meaning and Status

(Wednesday, August 5): Politics of Identity and Ethnicity

(Friday, August 7): The Politics of History and Historiography

Book Club: Read Preface, Chapters 1 and 2 in Dreams from My Father

WEEK TWO: The Politics of Representation
(Monday, August 10): The Politics of Authority and Positionality

(Wednesday, August 12): The Politics of Memory and Art

(Friday, August 14): The Politics of Remembrance and Reparation

Book Club: Read Chapters 4-6 in Dreams from My Father

WEEK THREE: The Politics of Conflict and Reconciliation
(Monday, August 17): The (Geo)Politics of Culture and Place
(Wednesday, August 19): The Politics of Home, Indigeneity and Sovereignty

Book Club: Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Dreams from My Father
Guest Speaker: Maile Arvin and Angela Morrill

(Friday, August 21): The Politics of Hybridity and Diversity

Book Club: Dreams Chapters 7-10

WEEK FOUR: The Politics of Struggle
(Monday, August 24): The Politics of Coalition-Building

Papers Due in Class

(Wednesday, August 26): The Politics of Sexuality and Desire

Speeches (10 min. max per presentation)

(Friday, August 28): Speeches Continued...

Book Club: Read Dreams Chapter 11-14)

WEEK FIVE: The Politics of Change
(Monday, August 31): The Politics of Reform and Resistance
Choose one essay to read:


(Wednesday, September 1): The Politics of Sight and Vision

Film: Senator Obama goes to Africa followed by discussion

(Friday, September 4): The Politics of Hope

Book Club: Read Dreams Epilogue and the Audacity of Hope End

**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. If you wish to be called a different name or gender pronoun please tell me.

**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**
Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of "interest" yet have no information about the major or minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.