RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Political Science 100H        Fall 2012
Tue-Thu 12:30-1:50pm    CENTR 214

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor:   Zoltan Hajnal
Office Hours:  Friday 10:30-12pm in  395 Social Sciences Building
Phone:  822-5015   Email: zhajnal@ucsd.edu

TAs: Neil Visalvanich neil.visal@gmail.com Tuesday 10:45am-12:15pm SSB 346
     David Searle david.m.searle@gmail.com Wednesday's 12-130pm SSB330

Course Description:  The course focuses on how attributions of racial difference shape American political institutions and our civil and public life more broadly. Each week of the course provides a brief overview of a different aspect of race relations in America. Throughout the course we will examine widely divergent understandings of America's 'race problem' both to provide a more informed assessment of what the problems are as well as to evaluate various solutions.

Format and requirements:  The course will consist of two class meetings each week. I will lecture but questions and discussions are always welcome. Attendance and reading are mandatory. 35 percent of your grade will be based on an in-class mid-term exam. Another twenty percent of your grade will be based on one 5 page paper which is due on November 15th. The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for Friday December 14th at 11:30am. Students who regularly participate in class and do so in a helpful manner can obtain up to a 5 percent bonus to their grade.

Note: All readings for a particular date should be done before the beginning of class. I reserve the right to give the class an in-class pop quiz worth up to 5 percent of the grade if I find that students are not doing the reading before class.

Grading Policy:  Appeals about grades must be type-written, double spaced, and no more than one page long. They must be submitted to your TA. The TA’s decision is final.

Required Readings:  All course readings with the exception of the two required books will be available either on e-reserves at: http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx (password zh100h) or on the Ted/WebCT Course Website. Most of the readings are at e-reserves so CHECK THERE FIRST. Only the longer book sections will be on Ted/WebCT.


Both are available at the bookstore or can be ordered online.

**Paper Topic:** Choose a pressing aspect of America's 'race problem'. Choose something that you care about – not simply the biggest problem. Answer the following question: How can this problem be resolved most successfully? Please address both possible critics and proponents of your plan from class readings. Also be sure to consider the constraints of America's current political arena. *Don't write more than five pages- double spaced - 12 point font. The paper is due on November 15th before 12:30pm. All papers must be submitted through Turnitin on the TED WebCT course website. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.*

**Reading List**

**9/27** INTRODUCTION

**10/2** WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?


Kevin Johnson (1999) *How Did you Get to be Mexican American?* Pp 73-88


**10/4** TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING


Start reading Alex Kotlowitz (1991). *There are no Children Here* (whole book)

**10/9** LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY

Finish reading Alex Kotlowitz (1991). *There are no Children Here* (whole book)

10/11 DISCRIMINATION
Kirschenman and Neckerman (1991). "'We'd Love to Hire Them, But ...'
The Meaning of Race for Employers" in Christopher Jencks and Paul Peterson, The Urban Underclass pp 203-234
Frank Wu (2002) Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White Ch 3

10/16 IMMIGRATION AS A PROBLEM?
George Borjas (1995) “Know the Flow” National Review April 17
Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity Chs 1, 4, 9

10/18 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION

10/23 LIFE AS AN IMMIGRANT

10/25 ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS POLITICAL GROUPS?

*NOTE There will be a midterm review during this class session
11/1 WHITE ATTITUDES

11/6 UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES

11/8 THE ROLE OF RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS

11/13 MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS

11/15 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH

Five Page Paper due by 12pm 11/15 on Ted course website
11/20 and 11/22  
NO CLASS. ENJOY. HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

11/26  
**VOTING RIGHTS: PAST**

11/28  
**VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE**

12/4  
**RACE RELATIONS: WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE ARE WE GOING?**
Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* pp 232-249
Zoltan Hajnal and Michael Rivera. 2012. Immigration, Race, and the Transformation of the Politics of White America

12/6  
**Discussion/Review of the Course**

FINAL EXAM:  Friday December 14th 11:30am-2:30pm