RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Political Science 100H  Fall 2014
T-Th 9:30-10:50am  CENTR 212

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor:  Zoltan Hajnal
Office Hours:  Mon & Fri 3-3:50pm in 390 Social Sciences Building
Email:  zhajnal@ucsd.edu

TAs: Nazita Lajevardi nazital@gmail.com Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2, SSB 341
Huchen Liu hul045@ucsd.edu  Office Hours: Thursday 3-4:30pm SSB 328

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 20th.
The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for December
18th at 8:00am. 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. Longer book sections which will be on Ted/WebCT are noted with the phrase ON TED.
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 20th before 9:00AM. 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**

**10/2 INTRODUCTION**

**10/7 WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?**
Kevin Johnson (1999) *How Did you Get to be Mexican American?* Pp 73-88

**10/9 TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING**

**10/14 DISCRIMINATION**
Frank Wu (2002) *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* Ch 3
10/16  LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY
Read Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There are no Children Here (whole book)
Nov 4, pg A20

10/21  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 4, 9

10/23  THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION

10/28  LIFE AS AN IMMIGRANT

10/30  BLACKS, ASIAN AMERICANS, AND LATINOS AS POLITICAL GROUPS

MIDTERM REVIEW TODAY

11/4  MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)

11/6  WHITE ATTITUDES
Do the “Race IAT” - Implicit Association Tests at:
http://www.understandingprejudice.org/baseline/
Lawrence Bobo (2001). “Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the Twentieth
Century” In Neil Smelser et al, America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I. Pp 264-301

11/11 VETERAN’S DAY – NO CLASS

11.13 UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES

11/18 THE ROLE OF RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Zoltan Hajnal and Marisa Abrajano (forthcoming) White Backlash: Immigration, Race, and US Politics. Read the Introduction ON TED

Five Page Paper due by 9AM 11/20 on Ted course website

11/20 MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS

11/25 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH-THE BLACK-WHITE CASE
11/27  NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

12/2  VOTING RIGHTS: PAST
Frank Parker (1990). *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965*. Read chapters 1, 2, 5, 7. ON TED

12/4  VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

12/9  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

12/11  Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM:  Thursday December 18th 8:00am-11:00am