RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Political Science 100H        Fall 2016
T-Th 11a-12:20p    CENTR 115

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor:  Zoltan Hajnal
Office Hours:  Wed 2-3:30pm in RBC 1413
Email: zhajnal@ucsd.edu

TAs: Matt Nanes mnanes@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Mon on 10:30-12 SSB 348
Jason Wu 'Jason Wu' jasonwu@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Mon 3-4:30 in SSB 350
Mike Nicholson mdnicholson@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Thurs 12:30-2 in SSB 443
Elaine Denny  ekdenny@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Tues 12:30-2pm RBC 1410

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 10th. The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for December 7th 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 on the Ted/WebCT Course Website.

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 10th before class.* All papers must be submitted through Turnitin on the TED WebCT course website AND students must bring a hard copy to class. You will also have to bring in a paper copy to class on the 10th. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.

**Reading List**

**9/22** INTRODUCTION

**9/27** WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?
Kevin Johnson (1999) *How Did you Get to be Mexican American?* Pp 73-88

**9/29** NO CLASS TODAY – ENJOY

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

**10/6** DISCRIMINATION
Frank Wu (2002) Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White Ch 3

10/11 LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY
Read Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There are no Children Here (whole book)
Alana Semuels (2015) The Resurrection of America’s Slums

10/13 BLACKS, ASIAN AMERICANS, AND LATINOS AS POLITICAL GROUPS

10/18 WHITE ATTITUDES
Do the “Race IAT” - Implicit Association Tests at:
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html

10/20 UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES

MIDTERM REVIEW TODAY

10/25 MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)

10/27 THE ROLE OF RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Michael Tesler 2016 Trump is the first modern Republican to win the nomination based on racial prejudice Washington Post August 1


Sally Kohn Hillary Clinton was wrong: Donald Trump’s voters are not ‘irredeemable’ Washington Post Sept 12
https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/09/12/hillary-clinton-was-wrong-donald-trumps-voters-are-not-irredeemable/?utm_term=.c0cee914a5bf

11/1 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

11/3 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION

11/8 LIFE AS AN IMMIGRANT

Five Page Paper due by the beginning of class on 11/10 –submit to Ted course website and bring hard copy to class

11/10 MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS
http://jointcenter.org/sites/default/files/VRA%20report,%203.5.15%20%281130%20am %29%28updated%29.pdf

11/15 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH-THE BLACK-WHITE CASE

11/17 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST

11/22 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

11/24 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

11/29 RACE RELATIONS: WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

12/1 Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday December 7th 11:30-2:30 – Location TBA