RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
Political Science 100H        Fall 2017
T-Th 2:00-3:20p    CENTR 212

COURSE SYLLABUS

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

TAs: Marco Alcocer m2alcoce@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Fridays from 12-2pm in SSB 322
Cassidy Reller creller@ucsd.edu Office Hours: 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm on Tuesdays SSB 324

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 16th. The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for Thursday December 14th from 3-6pm. 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 (Don’t choose a big problem – smaller problems are easier to solve – feel free to focus on a local or very specific problem). Answer the following question: How can this problem be resolved most successfully? Address possible critics of your plan and explain why they are wrong. Also be sure to consider the constraints of America's current political arena. You will be judged less on your problem and your solution and much more on how effectively you argue for your solution (Present strong, compelling, logical arguments. Present compelling data). You can use material from class or from outside of class. *Don't write more than five pages- double spaced - 12 point font. The paper is due on November 16th 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 16th. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.*

**Reading List**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
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Kevin Johnson (1999) *How Did you Get to be Mexican American?* Pp 73-88  
| 10/5  | TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING | PEW (2016) Chapter 1. Demographic trends and economic well-being (In “On Views of Race and Inequality”) READ ONLY CHAPTER 1, SKIP INTRO AND REST OF REPORT  
Frank Wu (2002) Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White Ch 3

10/12 NO CLASS TODAY - ENJOY

10/17 LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY
Read Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There are no Children Here (whole book)
Alana Semuels (2015) The Resurrection of America’s Slums

10/19 WHERE DO ASIAN AMERICANS, LATINOS, AND MUSLIM AMERICANS FIT IN?

10/24 WHAT DIVIDES US? RACE AND CLASS IN 2016 AND BEYOND
Stephanie Coontz (2016) Why the Working Class Ditched Clinton. CNN.com
Zoltan Hajnal (forthcoming) The Colors behind the Parties: Race, Class, and the Demographics of Partisan Polarization. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

10/27 MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS

10/29 MINORITY REPRESENTATION CONTINUED
5 Page Paper due by the beginning of class on 11/16 –submit to Ted course website and bring hard copy to class


11/23 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

11/28 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST

11/30 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

12/5 WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE ARE WE GOING? THINKING ABOUT SOLUTIONS

12/7 Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday December 14th 3-6pm – Location TBA