

RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS

Political Science 100H Spring 2007

Tue-Thu 11:00-12:20 Solis 104

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Zoltan Hajnal

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:30am 395 Social Sciences Building

Phone: 822-5015

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. Forty 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 May 29th. The remaining 40 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for Tuesday June 12th 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.

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 May 29th at the beginning of class. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.*

Required Book: Alex Kotlowitz (1991). *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America.*

Required Reader: All course readings with the exception of the one required book will be available on e-reserves at: <http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx> The required readings will also be included in a packet that will be distributed AS Soft Reserves (534-6256).

Reading List

4/3 INTRODUCTION

4/5 WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?

Frantz Fanon (1992). "Fact of Blackness" in David Theo Goldberg, *Anatomy of Racism*. Pp 108-126.

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

Michael Omi (2001). "The Changing Meaning of Race" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp243-263

4/10 ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS RACIAL GROUPS?

Michael Dawson (1994). *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Pp 3-15

Rodney Hero (1992). *Latinos and the U.S. Political System: Two Tiered Pluralism*. Chs 2-4

Peter Skerry (1997). "E Pluribus Hispanic?" In *Pursing Power: Latinos and the Political System*, F. Chris Garcia (Editor), pp 16-30

4/12 NO CLASS

4/17 ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS RACIAL GROUPS?

Yen Le Espiritu (1992). *Asian American Panethnicity*. Ch 1-3

Eric Liu (1998) *The Accidental Asian*. Pp 33-56

Pei-te Lien et al (2004). *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community*. Pp 22-53

4/19 TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING

Rebecca M. Blank (2001). "An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being by Race" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp21-40

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom (1997). *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*. Pp 183-202.

4/24 TRENDS IN SEGREGATION

Douglas Massey (2001). "Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Conditions in U.S. Metropolitan Areas" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp391-434

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom (1997). *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*. pp 203-231.

4/26 LIVING IN POVERTY, LIVING IN ISOLATION

- **CLASS MEETS IN EVENING FOR THE MOVIE: MI VIDA LOCA**
- **TIME AND LOCATION: TBA**

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

5/1 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

Joe Feagin (1994). "The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiblack Discrimination in Public Places" in Fred L. Pincus and Howard J. Ehrlich, *Race and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Views on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnviolence*. pp 98-114.

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

Robert Jensen (1998). "White Privilege Shapes the U.S." *The Baltimore Sun* July 19. 1C

* Midterm Review

5/3 MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)

5/8 WHITE ATTITUDES

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

Taeke Lee (2000). "Racial Attitudes and the Color Line(s) at the Close of the Twentieth Century" in Paul M. Ong, *Transforming Race Relations: The State of Asian Pacific America*. Pp 103-158

5/10 UNDERSTANDING WHITE RACIAL POLICY VIEWS

Paul Sniderman and Edward Carmines (1997). *Reaching Beyond Race*. Pp 99-139.

Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders (1996). *Divided By Color: Racial Politics and Democratic Ideals*. Pp 12-34, 92-127.

5/15 THE ROLE OF RACE IN POLITICS

Edsall and Edsall (1991). *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights and Taxes on American Politics*. pp 3-31, 215-231, 289-292

Martin Gilens (1991) *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverity Policy* Chapter 3

5/17 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH

Williams (1990). "White/Black Perceptions of the Electability of Black Political Candidates" *National Black Political Science Review* 2:45-64

Benjamin Highton (2004) "White Voters and African American Candidates for Congress" *Political Behavior* 26(1):1-25

Timothy Egan (2000). "When to Campaign with Color" *New York Times* June 20. A1

5/22 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST

Frank Parker (1990). *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965*. Read chapters 1,2,5,7.

5/24 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Bruce Cain (1992). "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory: Toward A Color Blind Society" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 261-277

Lani Guinier (1992) "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory: Where Do We Go From Here?" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 283-292

Luis R. Fraga (1992) "Latino Political Incorporation and the Voting Rights Act" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 278-282

Abigail Thernstrom (1995). "Rule of Law: Racial Gerrymanders Come Before the Supreme Court" *Wall Street Journal* April 12 pg A15

5/29 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION I

Five Page Paper due at the beginning of class

Samuel Huntington (2004) "The Hispanic Challenge" *Foreign Policy* (March/April)

Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* Chs 6,8, and 9

5/31 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION II

Min Zhou (2001) "Contemporary Immigration and the Dynamics of Race and Ethnicity" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Chapter 7

6/5 PROSECTS FOR THE FUTURE

James Johnson and Melvin Oliver. "Interethnic Minority Conflict in Urban America: The Effects of Economic and Social Dislocations" in Fred L. Pincus and Howard J. Ehrlich, *Race and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Views on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnviolence*. pp 194-205.

Jennifer Hochschild and Reuel Rogers (2000) "Race Relations in a Diversifying Nation" in *New Directions: African Americans in a Diversifying Nation* Chapter 3

Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* pp238-249

Herbert Gans (2007) The Possibility of a New Racial Hierarchy in the 21st Century United States in *Rethinking the Color Line: Reading in Race and Ethnicity*. Pp 149-165

6/7 Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday June 12th at 11:30am