Course Description:
This course examines several key aspects of racial inequality in America. It outlines patterns of racial difference and seeks to understand and address problems related to poverty, immigration, discrimination, and uneven political representation through sociological, political, and economic analyses. Each week we will take on a different subject and attempt to explore its complexities in a deep and meaningful way.

Format and requirements:
This is a seminar and not a lecture course. Participation in class is mandatory. Forty percent of your grade will depend on your attendance and ACTIVE and THOUGHTFUL participation during each week’s discussion. To help you organize your thoughts about the assigned materials, you will be asked to prepare one essay in response to the readings each week. Each essay should be 1-2 single-spaced pages --- never more than 2 --- and should: 1) identify the main themes or arguments of EACH work assigned, 2) isolate 2 issues raised, or stances taken by ONE of the readings that you find problematic, intriguing, or otherwise especially deserving of attention; and 3) offer your own takes on those 2 issues, drawing on other readings and your own experience as appropriate. These essays are due at the beginning of class and will make-up 20 percent of your grade. The only other requirement is a research paper. You can write on anything as long as it is somehow related to the racial inequality in America. At the end of the quarter, students will be expected to make a short presentation to the class on their research. All students must submit a 2 page prospectus for the research paper (paper topic, outline of your argument, sample bibliography) by the beginning of class week five. The research paper will account for the remaining 40% of your grade.

Required Readings:
All course readings with the exception of the one required book will be available either on e-reserves at: http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx or at Web-CT.

Required Books:
Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America. This is available at the bookstore or can be ordered on Amazon. I also have free copies for those who need them.
Reading List

Week One
INTRODUCTION

March 30 Outline of class/Introduction to basic patterns of racial inequality


Week Two
LIVING POOR IN AMERICA


Week Three
CAUSES OF POVERTY-PART A


Ladonna Pavetti (2001). Welfare Policy in Transition: Redefining the Social Contract for Poor Citizen Families with Children and for Immigrants. ” In Danziger and Haveman (eds), Understanding Poverty. pp229-277
### Week Four

**CAUSES OF POVERTY-PART B**

**April 20**


Maria Cancian and Deborah Reed (2001). Changes in Family Structure: Implications for Poverty Related Policy. ” In Danziger and Haveman (eds), *Understanding Poverty*.


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**Week Five**

**POVERTY: POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

**April 27**


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**TWO PAGE PROSPECTUS FOR YOUR RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY**

(brief description of topic, your argument, sample bibliography)
## Week Six
### IMMIGRATION AS A PROBLEM?

**May 4**


Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* Chs 1, 4, 6, 9, and pp 232-249


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## Week Seven
### IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

**May 11**


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## Week Eight
### UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES

**May 18**

Week Nine
RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH

May 25  


Week Ten  
VOTING RIGHTS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

June 1  


**Students will make a short in-class presentation on their research papers**