Race and Ethnicity in American Politics
Political Science 100H
TR, 9:30-10:50, Peterson 108
Winter 2007

Professor: Marisa Abrajano
Office: 593 Social Sciences Building
Office Phone: (858) 534-2701
Email: mabrajano@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 11-1 or by appointment

Course Description

This class is a survey of historical and contemporary issues of ethnic and racial minority politics in the U.S.; race and ethnicity in the context of U.S. politics; and comparisons of racial and ethnic group experiences in the U.S. We will pay special attention to the experiences of the three major racial groups in the U.S.- African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Class Readings

Attendance and readings are mandatory. I will not take attendance, but it will be difficult to do well in the class if you do not attend lectures or only rely on the lecture notes. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class. You must complete all assignments to pass this course.

Excuses Policy (extensions, make-up exams, etc.)

Extensions and make-up exams will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. You must have a documented reason (i.e. medical reason, extenuating personal circumstances, etc.) for not being able to take an exam or turn in a graded assignment at the scheduled time. You will need to bring in supporting documentation to be granted a make-up, extension, etc. After you provide this information and evidence, a decision will be made regarding a make-up, extension, etc. Please note that the make-up midterm exam will be held during Week 10 of the quarter.

Grade Appeals

You have one week after I return the exam/paper to appeal the grade. All appeals must be made to your TA. You must submit a typed, double-spaced, statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, your TA reserves the right to decrease the existing grade. His/her decision is final.

Late Papers

A late paper loses 10% for each day that it is late up to the letter grade of a C. If you turned in a paper one day late, the highest grade you can get is a 90% and if you turn in a paper a week late, for example, the highest grade that you can get is a C. The idea behind this is simple. You are not overly penalized for day one but by day two the highest grade that you may receive is 80%. You
are encouraged to turn in late papers quickly but by making the reduction capped at a C you also encouraged to turn them in, even if exceptionally late. Late papers will not be accepted past the Tuesday of Week 10.

Tardiness to Exams

It is expected that you will arrive to exams on time. Arriving late to exams is a disruption for your colleagues and increases the probability that exam information has been shared. Students who arrive more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to sit for the midterm. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and papers. Please refer to the UCSD policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes plagiarism), you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.

Required Readings

Course packet – available at A.S. Soft reserves

Grading

Midterm Exam (30%). This will be an in-class exam and will take place on February 8, 2007.

Critical Response Paper (25%): Paper topics TBA. The papers are due in lecture on March 6, 2007.

Final Exam (40%): The final will be a take home exam. Further details provided in class.

Participation/In-Class assignments (5%): Students who contribute to class discussion, and partake in periodic in-class assignments throughout the semester can earn an additional five percentage points toward their grade.

************************** COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change) **************************

1/9 Introduction

1/11-1/16 Understanding Race and Ethnicity: Concepts and Definitions


Chapters 1-2.


1/18 Socioeconomic and Political Realities of Minority Groups in the U.S.


1/23 Segregation


1/25 Poverty


1/30 Discrimination


II. PERCEPTIONS OF THE PROBLEM

2/1 Racial Attitudes in the U.S.


2/6 Media Coverage of Racial and Ethnic Minorities


2/8 In-class midterm

II. SOLUTIONS

2/13 The Role of Race and Ethnic Identity in the Political Arena


2/15 Political Participation and Mobilization (Paper topic handed out)


2/20 Political Participation and Mobilization, continued


2/22 The Role of Race in Campaigns and Voting


2/27 The Role of Race in Campaigns and Voting, cont.


In-class: Documentary, "Street Fight."

3/1 Inter-group Relations


III. PRESSING ISSUES AND DEBATES

3/6 Immigration


3/8 Immigration, continued (Papers due at the beginning of lecture)

Navarrete, Ruben Jr. "A Dishonest Approach to Immigration" San Diego Union Tribune. 1/18/06

Navarrete, Ruben Jr. "Simple Solutions on Immigration" San Diego Union Tribune. 10/15/06


In Class: Documentary, "The Invisible Mexicans of Deer Canyon"

3/13 Affirmative Action

3/15 Language Policy (Take home final exam distributed in-class)


(3/21) Take home exams due