

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

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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 lecture 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

I. THE PROBLEMS

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

Espiritu, Yen Lee. 1993. *Asian American Panethnicity*. Temple: Temple University Press. Chapters 1-2.

Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp 3-15.

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

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 14-23.

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

Smith, James P. 2001. "Race and Ethnicity in the Labor Market: Trends over the Short and Long Term" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol II*, pp. 52-97

Chang, Suchen. 1991. *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, pp. 167-185.

1/23 Segregation

Jost, Kenneth. 2007. *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*. Washington DC: CQ Press, 3rd Edition. Chapter 4.

Kozol, Jonathan. 2005. *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*. Pp 13-37, 175-186, 215-236.

1/25 Poverty

Smith, James P. 2001. "Ethnic and Racial Differences in Welfare Receipt in the United States." In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol II*, pp. 152-172

Thernstrom Stephan and Abigail Thernstrom. 1997. *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp 232-247, 250-253.

1/30 Discrimination

Greenblatt, Alan. 2007. *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*. Washington DC: CQ Press, 3rd Edition. Chapter 2.

Wu, Frank. 2002. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*, Chapter 3

II. PERCEPTIONS OF THE PROBLEM

2/1 Racial Attitudes in the U.S.

Sniderman, Paul M. and Edward G. Carmines. 1997. "Reaching Beyond Race," *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 30: 466-471.

Tobar, Hector. 2005. *Translation Nation: American Identity in the Spanish-Speaking United States*. Pp 110-124.

2/6 Media Coverage of Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Gilliam, Franklin D. and Shanto Iyengar. 2000. "Prime Suspects: The Influence of Local Television News on the Viewing Public" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 3. pp. 560-573.

Subervi, Federico. 2004. "Network Brownout Report 2005: The Portrayal of Latinos and Latino Issues on Network Television News, 2004, with a retrospect to 1995", pp 4-5, 11-15.

2/8 In-class midterm

II. SOLUTIONS

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

Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp 45-68.

Garcia Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity and Politics in Los Angeles*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 4.

Yung, Judy. 1995. *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*. Berkeley, University of California Press. pp. 162-164.

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

Leighley, Jan. 2001. *Strength in Numbers? The Political Mobilization of Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 6-7

Pardo, Mary. 1997. "Mexican American Women Grassroots Community Activists: Mothers of East Los Angeles" in *Pursuing Power: Latinos and the Political System*, editors, F. Chris Garcia (Editor), pp 151-168.

2/20 Political Participation and Mobilization, continued

Wong, Janelle. 2006. *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and America's Civic Institutions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapter 4.

Yung, Judy. 1995. *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*. Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 156-161.

2/22 The Role of Race in Campaigns and Voting

Mendelberg, Tali. 2001. *The Race Card: Campaign Strategy, Implicit Messages and the Norm of Equality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 111-169.

Segal, Adam J. 2004. "The Hispanic Priority: The Spanish-Language Television battle for the Hispanic Vote in the 2004 U.S Presidential Election." Hispanic Voter Project. Washington, D.C.: John Hopkins University, pp. 2-3, 11-20.

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

Page, Clarence. "A Great Black Hope", from P.O.V. PBS, pp 1-3.

In-class: Documentary, "Street Fight"

3/1 Inter-group Relations

Kim, Claire. *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 109-133, 156-162, 167-173.

III. PRESSING ISSUES AND DEBATES

3/6 Immigration

Hungtington, Samuel. 2004. "One Nation, Out of Many". *American Enterprise*.

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 21-64, 96-109, 138-152

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

Navarette, Ruben Jr. "A Dishonest Approach to Immigration" *San Diego Union Tribune*. 11/19/06

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

Press, Eyal. "Do Immigrants Make Us Safer?" *The New York Times*. 12/3/06.

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

3/13 Affirmative Action

Carter, Stephen L. 1991. *Reflections of an Affirmative Action Baby*. New York: Basic Books, pp 11-27.

Jost, Kenneth. 2007. *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*. Washington DC: CQ Press, 3rd Edition. Chapter 1

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

Garcia-Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity and Politics in Los Angeles*, Chapter 3.

Rodriguez, Richard. 1982. *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*. Boston: Godine Publishers, pp 9-32.

(3/21) Take home exams due