Perspectives on Race
Political Science 100O
Peterson 102

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Winter 2011
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Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 4:00-4:50 p.m.
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

My Mission as a Teacher:
“To enable my students to learn joyfully, think clearly, read carefully, and write well.”

Abstract
Drawing heavily from the political psychology literature, this course looks at race in American politics from a variety of perspectives. We consider psychological, genetic, neuroscience, economic, political, sociological, and legal views of what drives powerful dynamics of race in our country.

Books

Topics and Readings
Meeting 1 (Monday, January 3rd) – Introduction
“Does Race Exist?” Scientific American (December 2003), p. 78-85 (6 pages)

Meeting 2 (Wednesday, January 5th) –
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. ix to 51 (61 pages)

Meeting 3 (Friday, January 7th) – Discussion

Meeting 4 (Monday, January 10th) –
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. 52-128 (72 pages)

Meeting 5 (Wednesday, January 12th) –
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. 129-190 (72 pages)

Meeting 6 (Friday, January 14th) – Discussion
Psychology of Race

Meeting 7 (Monday, January 17th) – No Class (Martin Luther King Holiday)

Meeting 8 (Wednesday, January 19th) – Group Threat

Meeting 9 (Friday, January 21st) – Social Dominance Orientation

Meeting 10 (Monday, January 24th) – Symbolic Racism

Meeting 11 (Wednesday, January 26th) – Principled Conservatism

Meeting 12 (Friday, January 28th) – Discussion

Meeting 13 (Monday, January 31st) –
Charles Taber (2008)

Meeting 14 (Wednesday, February 2nd) – Implicit/Explicit Attitudes

Meeting 15 (Friday, February 4th) – Discussion
First Paper Due (5 pages)

Meeting 16 (Monday, February 7th) – Emergence
Thomas Schelling (1978) Micromotives and Macrobehaviors p. 147-155 (8 pages)

Meeting 17 (Wednesday, February 9th) – Discussion and Midterm review

Meeting 18 (Friday, February 11th) – Midterm
**Biology and Race?**

Meeting 19 (Monday, February 14th) – Evolutionary Psychology & Race


Meeting 20 (Wednesday, February 16th) – Neuroscience & Race


Meeting 21 (Friday, February 18th) – Discussion

Meeting 22 (Monday, February 21st) – No Class (President’s Day)

Meeting 23 (Wednesday, February 23rd) –

Golby et al. (2001) “Differential Responses in the Fusiform Region to Same-Race and Other-Race Faces.” Nature Neuroscience (6 pages)

Meeting 24 (Friday, February 25th) –

Schreiber & Iacoboni (2011) Huxtables on the Brain: An fMRI study of Race and Norm Violation

Meeting 25 (Monday, February 28th) – Race and Genetics


Meeting 26 (Wednesday, March 2nd) –


Parra et al. (2004) “Implications of correlations between skin color and genetic ancestry for biomedical research.” Nature Genetics (7 pages)

Meeting 27 (Friday, March 4th) – Discussion

**Race and the Law**

Meeting 28 (Monday, March 7th) –


Meeting 29 (Wednesday, March 9th) – Discussion

Meeting 30 (Friday, March 11th) – Discussion

**Final Paper Due (10 pages)**

**Final Exam** (Friday, March 18th) – 3:00 p.m. – 5:59 p.m.
Assignments & Grading
40% -- Two Papers (5 pages (13%) and 10 pages (27%))
25% -- Midterm Exam
25% -- Final Exam
10% -- Five Quizzes (you can drop one)

D Regurgitation – Like an infant, you are good at spitting it back out.
C Basic – Applying the facts and skills "as is."
B Intermediate – Applying the facts and skills to new problems or situations.
A Advanced – Asking counter-factual questions, modifying or changing operative principles to illustrate command of the core-principles in challenging contexts.

Grade Changes and Extensions
All requests for grade changes must be made formally to your teaching assistant. Requests must be typed, double spaced, and include precise textual citations that support your contention. A review of any grade may result in either a higher or a lower grade. Extensions on assignments and make-up exams will only be granted in cases of documented illness or family medical emergencies. Please contact your teaching assistant as soon as possible if you need to request one.

Late Policy
Papers are due at the beginning of class. 2% bonus if an assignment is turned in more than 24 hours early. A 5% penalty applies for any papers turned in after the beginning of class, with a 5% additional penalty for each day an assignment is turned in late.

Plagiarism
Fidelity to ones’ own ideas and the ideas of others dictates that proper citation be made for any work or idea of another. If I believe that you have violated this principle, I will change from being your advocate to being your prosecutor and I will seek the strongest penalty consistent with university policy.