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. 35 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 March 6th. The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for Tuesday March 20th 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.

Required Readings: All course readings with the exception of the two required books will be available either on e-reserves at: http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx or on the Ted Course Website. Most of the readings are at e-reserves so CHECH THERE FIRST. Only the longer book sections will be on Ted.
Both are available at the bookstore or can be ordered on Amazon. I also have free copies of Kotlowitz for those who need one.

**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 March 6th before 10am. All papers must be submitted through Turnitin on the Ted course website. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.*

**Reading List**

1/10 INTRODUCTION

1/12 WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?


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


1/17 TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING


Start reading Alex Kotlowitz (1991). *There are no Children Here* (whole book)
1/19  LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY

Finish reading Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There are no Children Here (whole book)


1/24  DISCRIMINATION


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


1/26  IMMIGRATION AS A PROBLEM?

George Borjas (1995) “Know the Flow” National Review April 17

Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity Chs 1, 4, 9


1/31 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION


2/2 LIFE AS AN IMMIGRANT


2/7 ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS POLITICAL GROUPS?


*NOTE There will be a midterm review during this class session

2/9 MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)
2/14 WHITE ATTITUDES


2/16 UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES


2/21 THE ROLE OF RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS


2/23 NO CLASS TODAY – ENJOY

2/28 MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS


3/1 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH


3/6 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST

*Five Page Paper due by 10am on Ted course website*


3/8 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE


3/13  RACE RELATIONS: WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE ARE WE GOING?


Zoltan Hajnal and Michael Rivera. 2012. Immigration, Race, and the Transformation of the Politics of White America

3/15  Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM:  Tuesday March 20th 11:30am-2:30pm