Perspectives on Race  
Political Science 100O  
CSB 004

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Winter 2012  
Social Science Building 367  
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Class Meets:  Monday, 5-8 p.m.  
Office Hours:  Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:00 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 1.1 (Monday, January 9th) – Introduction  
“Does Race Exist?” Scientific American (December 2003), p. 78-85 (6 pages)

Meeting 1.2 (Monday, January 9th) –  
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. ix to 51 (61 pages)

Meeting 2.0 (Monday, January 16th) – No Class (Martin Luther King Holiday)

Meeting 3.1 (Monday, January 23rd) –  
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. 52-128 (72 pages)

Meeting 3.2 (Wednesday, January 23rd) –  
Beverly Tatum (2002) “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” p. 129-190 (72 pages)
Psychology of Race

Meeting 4.1 (Monday, January 30th) – Group Threat

Meeting 4.2 (Monday, January 30th) – Social Dominance Orientation

Meeting 5.1 (Monday, February 6th) – Symbolic Racism

Meeting 5.2 (Monday, February 6th) – Principled Conservatism

First Paper Due (5 pages)

Meeting 6.1 (Monday, February 13th) – Implicit/Explicit Attitudes

– Emergence

Thomas Schelling (1978) Micromotives and Macrobehaviors p. 147-155 (8 pages)

Meeting 6.2 (Monday, February 13th) – Midterm

Meeting 7.0 (Monday, February 20th) – No Class (President’s Day)

Biology and Race?

Meeting 8.1 (Monday, February 27th) – Evolutionary Psychology & Race

Meeting 8.2 (Monday, February 27th) – Neuroscience & Race
Phelps et al. (2000)“Performance on Indirect Measures of Race Evaluation Predicts Amygdala Activation.” Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience (10 pages)

Meeting 9.1 (Monday, March 5th) –
Golby et al. (2001) “Differential Responses in the Fusiform Region to Same-Race and Other-Race Faces.” Nature Neuroscience (6 pages)

Meeting 9.2 (Monday, March 5th)–
Schreiber & Iacoboni (2011) Huxtables on the Brain: An fMRI study of Race and Norm Violation
Meeting 10.1 (Monday, March 12th) – Race and Genetics
Jorde and Woddling (2004) “Genetic variation, classification, and ‘race.’” Nature Genetics (6 pages)

Meeting 10.2 (Monday, March 12th) –
Parra et al. (2004) “Implications of correlations between skin color and genetic ancestry for biomedical research.” Nature Genetics (7 pages)

Final Paper Due (10 pages)

Final Exam (Monday, March 19th) – 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 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.