ADVANCED TOPICS IN RACIAL POLITICS:
ADDRESSING RACIAL INEQUALITY
Political Science 100Q  Winter 2014

Tues 12-2:50     Zoltan Hajnal
SSB 102     Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:30am
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:
This course examines several key aspects of racial inequality in America. It outlines patterns of racial difference and seeks to understand and address problems related to poverty, immigration, discrimination, and uneven political representation through sociological, political, and economic analyses. Each week we will take on a different subject and attempt to explore its complexities in a deep and meaningful way.

Format and requirements:
This is a seminar and not a lecture course. Participation in class is mandatory. Forty percent of your grade will depend on your attendance and ACTIVE and THOUGHTFUL participation during each week’s discussion. To help you organize your thoughts about the assigned materials, you will be asked to prepare one essay in response to the readings each week. Each essay should be 1-2 single-spaced pages --- never more than 2 --- and should: 1) identify the main themes or arguments of EACH work assigned, 2) isolate 2 issues raised, or stances taken by ONE of the readings that you find problematic, intriguing, or otherwise especially deserving of attention; and 3) offer your own takes on those 2 issues, drawing on other readings and your own experience as appropriate. These essays are due at the beginning of class and will make-up 20 percent of your grade. The only other requirement is a research paper. You can write on anything as long as it is somehow related to the racial inequality in America. At the end of the quarter, students will be expected to make a short presentation to the class on their research. All students must submit a 2 page prospectus for the research paper (paper topic, outline of your argument, sample bibliography) by the beginning of class week five. The research paper will account for the remaining 40% of your grade.

Required Readings: All course readings with the exception of the one required book will be available either on e-reserves at: http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx (password: zh100q) or the TED course website. Check reserves first.

Required Books: Alex Kotlowitz (1991). There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America. This is available at the bookstore or can be ordered on Amazon.
Reading List

Week One
INTRODUCTION

January 7  Outline of class/Introduction to basic patterns of racial inequality


Week Two
LIVING POOR IN AMERICA


Week Three
CAUSES OF POVERTY-PART A

January 21  Culture


(see also Elijah Anderson The Code of the Streets Atlantic Monthly May 1994

Welfare


Incarceration
Week Four

CAUSES OF POVERTY-PART B

January 28  Discrimination

Intelligence
Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray (1994). The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life. pp 91-115, 127-142, and 269-318 (see also Taubman Determinants of Earnings: Genetics, Family, and Other Environments” AER 1976

Family Structure

Week Five

POVERTY: POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

February 4  Jobs
Sheldon Danziger (2007) Fighting Poverty Revisited; What did researchers know 40 years ago? What do we know today? Focus 25(1) 3-11
irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc251a.pdf

Education
Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz (2009) The Future of Inequality: The Other Reason Education Matters so Much

Workfare
Sharon Parrott and Arloc Sherman (2006) TANF at 10: Program Results are more mixed than is often understood. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=600

Move People Out

Make Work Pay
David Neumark (1999) Will Increasing the Minimum Wage Help the Poor?

Human Capital Investment

Fewer Children

TWO PAGE PROSPECTUS FOR YOUR RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY
(brief description of topic, your argument, sample bibliography)
**Week Six**  
**IMMIGRATION AS A PROBLEM?**

**February 11**  


Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* Chs 1, 4, 6, 9, and pp 232-249


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**Week Seven**  
**IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

**February 18**  


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**Week Eight**  
**UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES**

**February 25**  
Do THREE of the following Implicit Association Tests: “Race IAT”, “Skin-tone IAT”, “Asian IAT”, or “Arab-Mulsim IAT” at:
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/Study?tid=-1


Week Nine
RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH

March 4


Week Ten

VOTING RIGHTS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

March 11


Students will make a short in-class presentation on their research papers

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RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE on MONDAY MARCH 17th at 5pm.

Email the papers to me. No hard copy is necessary.