POLI 259: The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration

Winter 2016

Social Sciences Building, Room 104

Tuesday, 12-3 pm

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the interplay between racial/ethnic identity and politics. How do race and ethnicity become politicized? What role does ethnic or racial identity play in one’s political behavior and decision-making processes? To what extent do political institutions and institutional design reinforce the salience of ethnic or racial identity in politics? These are just some of the questions that we will explore, as well as some of the methodological challenges involved in studying the politics of race and ethnicity. We will be taking a comparative approach to this topic, and cover readings in both the American politics and comparative politics literature. While the issue of race and ethnicity has received considerable attention from both of these subfields, there has been rather little overlap and synergy between them. Understanding why these two subfields have emerged in isolation of one another will be another theme that we will investigate, as we attempt to develop a more systematic and holistic understanding of the dynamics of race, ethnicity, and politics.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 20%
Participating in seminar essential and mandatory. Thus, it is expected that you will attend seminar and completed each of the readings assigned for the given week.

Presentations: 10%
Along with regular participation, each student will spend one or two of our meetings providing a public good as “defender” of a particular text (you may choose which readings you would like to defend).
Thought Papers 20%: send more info on this

Research Paper: 50%

A final 20-page research paper will count for 50% of the grade. Details will be discussed in class. You should be thinking about your paper topic and discussing it with me by the fourth week of the quarter.

Note: I do not accept late assignments nor do I accept assignments via email or in my mailbox. Assignments will only be accepted in class.

COURSE POLICIES

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 assignments 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.

Weeks 1-2: Conceptualizing Race, Ethnicity and Identity (1/5 and 1/12)

Required Readings:


Recommend Readings:

Week 3: Ethnic/Racial Conflict and Political Attitudes (1/19)

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Week 4: Race, Ethnicity, and Political Attitudes (1/26)
Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 5: Representation (2/2)

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Weeks 6: Political Behavior (2/9)

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Week 7: Political Knowledge (2/16)

Perez, Efren. 2015. Mind the Gap: Why Large Group Deficits in Political Knowledge Emerge—And What To Do About Them.” Political Behavior


Weeks 8: Political Institutions (2/23)

Required Readings:


Han, Hahrie. “The Organizational Roots of Political Activism: Field Experiments on Creating a Relational Context”. Forthcoming, American Political Science Review, May 2016

Recommended Readings:


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**Week 9: Race-Relevant Policies –The Criminal Justice System (3/1)**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


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**Week 10: Race Relevant Policies –Immigration (3/8)**

*(Seminar Paper Presentations)*

**Required Readings:**


Recommended Readings:


