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 3rd. The remaining 45 percent of your grade will be based on final exam scheduled for Thursday March 19th at 7:00pm. 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 Books:
Sonia Nazario (2007). Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother.

Required Reader: All course readings with the exception of the two required books and one on-line reading will be included in a packet that will be distributed by AS Soft Reserves (534-6256). The required readings (with the same exceptions) will also be available on e-reserves or as hard copies at reserves at the library.
**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 3rd at the beginning of class. Each day late will lower your actual grade by one full letter grade - no exceptions.**

**Reading List**

**1/6** INTRODUCTION

**1/8** WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE POLITICAL?


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


**1/13** TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING


**1/15** TRENDS IN SEGREGATION


1/20  NO CLASS

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

1/22  LIVING IN URBAN POVERTY

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

1/27  DISCRIMINATION


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


1/29  ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS POLITICAL GROUPS?


2/3  ARE BLACKS, LATINOS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS POLITICAL GROUPS?


*NOTE  There will be a midterm review during this class session*
2/10  WHITE ATTITUDES


2/12  UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES


2/17  THE ROLE OF RACE IN POLITICS


2/19  THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH


2/24 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST


2/26 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE


3/3 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION – WHITE VIEWS AND ACTIONS

*Five Page Paper due at the beginning of class*


Frank Bean and Gillian Stevens (2003) *America’s Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity* Chs 6, 7, and 9


3/5 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION II

3/10  PROSECTS FOR THE FUTURE


Jennifer Hochschild and Reuel Rogers (2000) “Race Relations in a Diversifying Nation” in *New Directions: African Americans in a Diversifying Nation* Chapter 3


3/12  Discussion/Review of the Course

FINAL EXAM:  Thursday March 19th 7-10pm