

# ***RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS***

Political Science 100H      Winter 2008  
Tue-Thu 5:00-6:20pm      Center 214

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

Professor:      Zoltan Hajnal  
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TA: Jeremy Horowitz      Office Hours: Thursday 10-12 in SSB 341      jhorowit@dss.ucsd.edu

***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 19<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Alex Kotlowitz (1991). *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America.*

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?**

Frantz Fanon (1992). "Fact of Blackness" in David Theo Goldberg, *Anatomy of Racism*. Pp 108-126.

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

Michael Omi (2001). "The Changing Meaning of Race" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp243-263

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

Rebecca M. Blank (2001). "An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being by Race" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp21-40

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom (1997). *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*. Pp 183-202.

### **1/15 TRENDS IN SEGREGATION**

Douglas Massey (2001). "Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Conditions in U.S. Metropolitan Areas" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp391-434

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom (1997). *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*. pp 203-231.

**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**

Kirschenman and Neckerman (1991). "'We'd Love to Hire Them, But ...' The Meaning of Race for Employers" in Christopher Jencks and Paul Peterson, *The Urban Underclass* pp 203-234

Joe Feagin (1994). "The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiblack Discrimination in Public Places" in Fred L. Pincus and Howard J. Ehrlich, *Race and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Views on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnoviolence*. pp 98-114.

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

Robert Jensen (1998). "White Privilege Shapes the U.S." *The Baltimore Sun* July 19. 1C

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

Michael Dawson (1994). *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Pp 3-15

Yen Le Espiritu (1992). *Asian American Panethnicity*. Ch 1-2

Eric Liu (1998) *The Accidental Asian*. Pp 33-56

Pei-te Lien (2001). *Making of Asian America through Political Participation*. Pp 170-197

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

Pew Hispanic Center (2004). The 2004 National Survey of Latinos: Politics and Civic Participation. On the web at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/33.pdf>

Peter Skerry (1997). "E Pluribus Hispanic?" In *Pursing Power: Latinos and the Political System*, F. Chris Garcia (Editor), pp 16-30

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

**2/5 MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)**

**2/10 WHITE ATTITUDES**

Lawrence Bobo (2001). "Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the Twentieth Century" In Neil Smelser et al, *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences Vol I*. Pp 264-301

Taeku Lee (2000). "Racial Attitudes and the Color Line(s) at the Close of the Twentieth Century" in Paul M. Ong, *Transforming Race Relations: The State of Asian Pacific America*. Pp 103-158

**2/12 UNDERSTANDING WHITE ATTITUDES**

Paul Sniderman and Edward Carmines (1997). *Reaching Beyond Race*. Pp 99-139.

Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders (1996). *Divided By Color: Racial Politics and Democratic Ideals*. Pp 12-34, 92-127.

**2/17 THE ROLE OF RACE IN POLITICS**

Edsall and Edsall (1992). *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights and Taxes on American Politics*. pp 3-31, 215-231, 289-292

Martin Gilens (1991) *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverity Policy* Chapter 3

**2/19 THE ROLE OF RACE IN THE VOTING BOOTH**

Williams (1990). "White/Black Perceptions of the Electability of Black Political Candidates" *National Black Political Science Review* 2:45-64

Benjamin Highton (2004) "White Voters and African American Candidates for Congress" *Political Behavior* 26(1):1-25

Timothy Egan (2000). "When to Campaign with Color" *New York Times* June 20. A1

## **2/24 VOTING RIGHTS: PAST**

Frank Parker (1990). *Black Votes Count: Political Empowerment in Mississippi After 1965*. Read chapters 1,2,5,7.

## **2/26 VOTING RIGHTS: PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Bruce Cain (1992). "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory: Toward A Color Blind Society" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 261-277

Lani Guinier (1992) "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory: Where Do We Go From Here?" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 283-292

Luis R. Fraga (1992) "Latino Political Incorporation and the Voting Rights Act" in Grofman and Davidson, *Controversies in Minority Voting: The Voting Rights Act in Perspective*. Pp 278-282

Abigail Thernstrom (1995). "Rule of Law: Racial Gerrymanders Come Before the Supreme Court" *Wall Street Journal* April 12 pg A15

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

### **Five Page Paper due at the beginning of class**

Samuel Huntington (2004) "The Hispanic Challenge" *Foreign Policy* (March/April)

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

Eyal Press (2006). "Do Immigrants Make Us Safer?" *The New York Times* December 3

## **3/5 THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION II**

Sonia Nazario (2007). *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother*, whole book.

### **3/10 PROSECTS FOR THE FUTURE**

James Johnson and Melvin Oliver. "Interethnic Minority Conflict in Urban America: The Effects of Economic and Social Dislocations" in Fred L. Pincus and Howard J. Ehrlich, *Race and Ethnic Conclit: Contending Views on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnoviolence*. pp 194-205.

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

Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean (2004). "America's Changing Color Lines: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Multiracial Identification" *Annual Review of Sociology*

### **3/12 Discussion/Review of the Course**

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> 7-10pm**