

RACIAL AND ETHNIC POLITICS Fall 2017

POSC 3310 - R01

Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:30-3:45pm
Keating Hall Room 121

Professor Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina

Department of Political Science
Office: 671 Faber Hall
Email: cuevasmolina@fordham.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-2pm

Course Description

This course explores both the historical and contemporary role(s) of race, ethnicity, and immigration in the construction and operation of American political life, particularly how these have shaped our political institutions and therefore American society. The course is designed to provide an overview of the literature on race and politics primarily in the discipline of political science (but also looking at work in other disciplines). This course is split into four parts. The first part provides a conceptual framework for understanding the contemporary meanings of race and ethnicity, and how these concepts have been shaped by both the political system and the groups under examination over time. Here we will look at: the development of the concept of race in the U.S., the manner in which racial boundaries have been defined, defended, and traversed over time, and the politics of identity. The second part of the course delves into public opinion regarding race relations and racial policies examining both the historical development of racial attitudes, the key determinants of these attitudes, and the current debates revolving around the future of race in America. The third part of the course moves more directly into the politics of race. We examine whether race predicts distinct patterns of political participation and behavior and the role of race in the development and current operation of American political parties. The final part of the course focuses attention on the future of race in America by examining the Obama era, new civil rights movements and the current state of racial affairs in the Trump era.

Course Readings

All of the course readings will be available via Blackboard. Students are expected to have completed each readings before coming to class. Weekly quizzes will be administered via Qualtrics, students will receive a link via email that will direct them to the online quiz.

House Rules

On most matters, students should follow the rights and responsibilities identified in the Fordham Student Handbook (available online). More specifically, students should also abide by several specific policies that are critical to an equitable and effective learning environment

- Incomplete grades, changes in exam dates, and extensions on written assignments will be approved only by Professor Cuevas and only upon evidence of serious medical or other extenuating circumstances.

- Plagiarism and cheating – copying someone else’s work without proper citation, using someone else’s insights and arguments without proper citation, having your work done for you by someone else, using notes in exams – will not be tolerated. Any such misconduct will result in an automatic “F” for the class, without exception.
- Multitasking – When in lecture please turn off your beepers, cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players, etc.

Requirements

This course is organized around intensive readings, research, and discussion. You are expected to attend lecture. **To pass the class, ALL assignments must be completed.** You will be evaluated on the following requirements.

1. Class participation and reading quizzes (10%).
2. Midterm examination that consists of identifications, short-answer questions, and one essay question (30%).
3. Three short papers that will be between 5-7 pages on a topic from the course. (10% each)
4. Final examination that will consist of identifications, short answer questions, and essay questions. (30%)

Disability Accommodations

If you require accommodation due to a disability please note that you must register with the Office of Disability Services at Fordham University (disabilityservices@fordham.edu). They are located at the Lower Level of O’Hare Hall on the Rose Hill campus and at Lowenstein 408 on the Lincoln Center campus.

Course Outline

I. Introduction

September 5th — Introduction

- Smith, Rogers. 2004. “The Puzzling Place of Race in American Political Science.” PS: Political Science and Politics. 41-45.

September 1st — No class

II. Defining Race

September 8th — What is race?

- K. Anthony Appiah. 1996. “Race, Culture, and Identity.” in *Color Conscious: The Political Morality of Race*, eds. K. Anthony Appiah and Amy Gutmann. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996

III. Defining Ethnicity

September 12th — What is Ethnicity?

- Weber, Max. 1918. “Ethnic Groups,” in *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 385-398

IV. Defining and Defending Racial and Ethnic Boundaries

September 15th — Defining Race: Courts, Culture, and Politics

- Samuels, Allison. 2015. "Rachel Dolezal's True Lies." Vanity Fair.
- Jacobson, Matthew Frye. 1998. *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-3.

September 19th – Defining Race: The Census, Latinos, and Multiracial Americans

- Rodriguez, Clara. 2000. *Changing Race*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp65-105
- September 22nd – How did America's Immigrants Become White: Classic Assimilation Theory

- Alba, Richard. 1990. "The Transformation of Ethnicity Among Americans of European Ancestries," in *Ethnic Identity: The Transformation of White America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1-36.

September 26th – How did America's Immigrants Become White: Challenges to Assimilation Theory

- Roediger, David. 2005. *Working Toward Whiteness*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 1
- September 29th – Assimilation Reborn – Today's New Immigrants and Assimilation Theory
- Zhou, Min. 1999. "Segmented Assimilation: Issues, Controversies, and Recent Research on the New Second Generation," in *The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience*, eds by C. Hirschman, P. Kasinitz, and J. DeWind. New York: Russell Sage, 196-211
 - Huntington, Samuel. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy*. 1-16.

V. Race and Public Opinion in Multiracial America

October 3rd & October 6th – Racial Attitudes in a Multiracial America

(1st Paper Assignment Due)

- Bobo, Lawrence and Camille Z. Charles. 2009. "Race in the American Mind: From the Moynihan Report to the Obama Candidacy." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 243-259
- Goldman, Seth. 2012. "Effects of the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign on White Racial Prejudice." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76(4): 663-687.

October 10th – Review

October 13th – Midterm Examination

October 17rd – Color-Blind or Color Conscious: The (In)Significance of Race in America?

- Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom. 1997. *America in Black and White*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Pp183-202
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2003. *Racism Without Racists*. Rowman and Littlefield. Chapters 2 and 3.
- Michael K. Brown et al. 2003. *Whitewashing Race*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 2.

VI. Race and Political Parties

October 20th Political Parties and Race

- Green et al. 2004. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*. Chapter 6.
- Philpot, Tasha. 2007. *Race, Republicans, and the Return of the Party of Lincoln*. Chapters Intro, 2, and 3.
- Hajnal, Zoltan and Lee, Taeku. 2011. *Race, Immigration, and (Non) Partisanship in America*. Chapter 1.

October 24th- Race and Campaigns

- Mendelberg, Tali. 2001. *The Race Card: Campaign Strategy, Implicit Messages, and the Norm of Equality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3.
- Nteta, Tatishe, Rebecca Lisi, and Melinda Tarsi. "Rendering the Implicit Explicit: Political Advertisements, Partisan Cues, Race, and White Public Opinion in the 2012 Presidential Election." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.

VII. Race and Vote Choice

October 27th- Old vs. New Wisdom

- Citrin, Jack, Donald Green, and David Sears. 1990. "White Reactions to Black Candidates: When Does Race Matter?" *Public Opinion Quarterly* 54:74-96.
- Hajnal, Zoltan. 2001. "White Residents, Black Incumbents, and a Declining Racial Divide." *American Political Science Review* 95(3).
- Tesler, Michael & Sears, David. 2011. *Obama's Race: The 2008 Election and the Dream of a Post Racial America*. Chapter 1 and 4

VIII. Race, Political Representation, and Redistricting

October 31st- Race, Representation, and Redistricting

- Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent Yes." *Journal of Politics*. 61(3): 628-57.
- Cannon, David. 1999. *Race, Redistricting, and Representation: The Unintended Consequences of Black Majority Districts*. Introduction and Chapter 2

IX. Race and Policy Preferences

November 3rd- Overview and Affirmative Action

- Hutchings, Vincent. 2009. "Change or More of the Same? Evaluating Racial Attitudes in the Obama Era." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 73(5): 917-942
- Sears, David, Jim Sidanius, and Lawrence Bobo. "Race in American Politics," in *Racialized Politics: The Debate about Racism in America*, eds David Sears, Jim Sidanius, and Lawrence Bobo. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

November 7th - Welfare and Health Care

- Gilens, Martin. 2000. *Why Americans Hate Welfare*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1
- Winter, Nicholas. 2008. *Dangerous Frames: How Ideas About Race and Gender Shape Public Opinion*. Chapter 5
- Tesler, Michael. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race." *American Journal of Political Science*

November 10th - Reparations

(2nd Paper Assignment Due)

- Brooks, Roy. 1999. "Japanese American Redress and the American Political Process: A Unique Achievement," in *When Sorry Isn't Enough*, ed Roy Brooks. New York: New York University Press.
- Manning, Marable. 2002. "Forty Acres and a Mule: The Case for Black Reparations." *The Great Wells of Democracy*. BasicCivitas Books: 223-254

- McWhorter, John. 2001. "Against Reparations." *The New Republic* November 14th – Race and Education

- Clotfelter, Charles. 2004. *After Brown: The Rise and Retreat of School Desegregation*. Chapter 1.

- Rosenberg, Gerald. 2004. "Substituting Symbol for Substance: What Did Brown Really Accomplish?" PS 37(2): 205-209

November 17th – Race and Education (cont'd)

- Cosby, Bill and Alvin Poussaint. 2007. *Come on People: On the Path from Victims to Victors*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. Chapter 1

- Dyson, Michael Eric. 2005. *Is Bill Cosby Right: Or has the Black Middle Class Lost its Mind?* New York: Perseus Books. Preface and Introduction

November 21st – Crime, Police Brutality, and Incarceration

- Thernstrom and Thernstrom. 1997. "Crime" Chapter 10 in *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*.

- Brown et al. 2003. *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society*. University of California Los Angeles Press. Chapter 4.

- Hurwitz, Jon and Mark Peffley. 2005. "Explaining the Great Racial Divide: Perceptions of Fairness in the U.S. Criminal Justice System." *The Journal of Politics* 67(3): 762-783

November 25th – No Class – Thanksgiving Break

November 28th – Crime, Police Brutality, and Incarceration (Cont'd)

- Eberhardt, Jennifer et al. 2004. "Seeing Black: Race, Crime, and Visual Processing." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

- Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press. Selected Chapters

- Kang, Jay Caspian. 2015. "'Our Demand is Simple: Stop Killing Us: How a Group of Black Social Media Activists Built the Nation's First 21st Century Civil Rights Movement.'" *New York Times*.

X. Race in the 21st Century

December 1st – Post-Racial America?

- Obama, Barack. "We the People." March 18, 2008
- Obama, Barack. "Eulogy for Reverend Clementa Pinckney." June 26, 2015

December 5th – Post-Racial America? (Cont'd)

- Bobo, Lawrence and Michael Dawson. 2009. "A Change Has Come" *Du Bois Review*. 6 (1): 1-14.
- Smith, Rogers and Desmond King. 2009. "Barack Obama and the Future of American Racial Politics." *Du Bois Review* 6(1): 25-35

December 8th – Review for Final Exam

(3rd Paper Assignment Due)

TBD - Final Examination

This syllabus is subject to changes