

Political Science 176

Racial Politics

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The Game Plan

This course is an upper division political science course on the topic of African American Politics. I assume general knowledge of government institutions, political science concepts, and research methods. However, this course will be accessible to students from all academic majors.

This course has three objectives. We'll learn what race is, including attempts to measure race and the methodological limitations of race as a research variable. We'll explore the deep intertwinement of race and politics in America, primarily with respect to elections. Third, we will examine policy areas that disproportionately affect African Americans. This course leverages multiple academic disciplines toward these ends.

How to Succeed in this Course

Bring an open mind. Enlightenment. It's the greatest gift you can give yourself. It's also why you came to sit in this room to the exclusion of other classrooms and activities. Don't deny yourself the opportunity to change your mind about strongly held beliefs.

Prepare. Read the assigned readings before each class. I have coordinated readings and lectures so that if you are on schedule, the lecture and reading will synergize. Useful discussions depend on students who have read and thought about the assigned material. Because I will be asking students about the week's readings and concepts, it is integral that you have some familiarity with the assigned readings before we meet.

Participate Political science is about social problems, not solitary ones. Therefore, your participation and that of your classmates will help to enrich your understanding of these problems. Everyone in this course has something to contribute to this learning environment. I expect you will respectfully share your thoughts and ideas with each other. By participation, I mean engaging in conversation, not simply answering questions. My hope is that you will appreciate my Socratic style...it is time worn, old school.

Making the Grade

The final course grade breaks down like this:

Midterm (30%)
Final Exam (30%)
Response Papers (30%)
Participation (10%)

Midterm exam date subject to change with advance notice. There are no extensions for any assignment without written medical excuse or prior approval from me. No make-up examinations without prior approval or without a written medical excuse. Late assignments are penalized at 20% per day.

Texts

Ian Haney-Lopez. 2015. *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class*. Oxford

CQ Researcher. 2014. *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*, Seventh Edition. CQ Press

Course Schedule

January 5th Collective Action Problems & Institutions

- Rogers Smith “The Puzzling Place of Race in American Political Science”

January 7th What is Race?

- Angela James “What to Make of Racial Classifications”
- [Gary Younge "White History 101" The Nation. February 21, 2007](#)

January 12th Methodology

- Paul Holland “Causation and Race”
- [Cargo Cult Science - Richard Feynman \(20 minutes\)](#)

January 14th Methodology

- Quincy T. Stewart “Swimming Upstream: Theory and Methodology”

January 19th Methodology: Design Strategies that Effectively Use Race

January 21st Great Migration, Redlining, and White Flight

- Issues in Race Ch. 2
- Kiewiet and McCubbins “The Logic of Delegation”

January 26st Government Ghetto

- Dog Whistle Politics Ch. Introduction & 1

January 28th Voting & Duverger

- Issues in Race Ch. 1 & 3

February 2nd Mayhew & Fenno

- David R. Mayhew “Congress: The Electoral Connection”
- Richard F. Fenno “Home Style”

February 4th Political Campaigning on Race

- Dog Whistle Politics Ch. 2, 3, 5

February 9th Political Campaigning on Race

February 11th Midterm (*Bring UCD2000 scantron and small blue book*)

February 16th Midterm & Evaluation Recap

February 18th Research Designs in Racism

- Dog Whistle Politics Ch. 8

February 23rd Research Designs in Racism II: Welfare & Aversive Racism

February 25th Affirmative Action

- Issues in Race Ch. 10
- Dog Whistle Politics Ch. 4, 6, 7

March 1st Criminal Justice

- <http://gladwell.com/million-dollar-murray/>
- Issues in Race Ch. 9

March 3rd Criminal Justice

- <http://spatialinformationdesignlab.org/projects/million-dollar-blocks>
- <http://chicagosmilliondollarblocks.com/>
- Dog Whistle Politics Ch. 9, 10

March 8th Education

- Issues in Race Ch. 11, 12
- [The Problem We All Live With](#)
- [The Problem We All Live With Part II](#)

March 10th Education & Review

Saturday March 19th Final Exam @ 1pm