

Political Science W3245: Race and Ethnicity in American Politics Columbia University, Fall Term 2008

Professor: Raymond A. Smith
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40-3:55
Office Hour: Thursdays 1-2pm and by appointment
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This course will broadly review the ways in which ethnoracial minority groups shape and are shaped by American politics and public policy. The course is organized into three parts. Part I of the course begins with an overview of concepts in the study of race and ethnicity and a review of the major ethnoracial groups in the US. Part II of the course focuses on political participation by ethnoracial minority groups, including participation in such areas as social movements, interest groups, political parties, elections, and political office-holding. Part III of the course reviews major areas of public policy that are particularly relevant to ethnoracial minority groups, including desegregation, integration, discrimination, affirmative action, reparations, immigration, naturalization, and language policy.

Course Requirements

If at any time you have a problem with a deadline, a course requirement, or anything else which may affect your participation in the course, please speak to me or to a TA as soon as possible and, in particular, before a requirement is due. We will try to work with you to resolve any problems, but can't do so unless we know about them in a timely manner.

Exams: There will be *three take-home exams* (one for each of the three parts of the class). Each exam will be worth 30% of the course grade. Since exams will be based both on course lectures and readings, it is essential that you attend class and complete all the required readings on a timely basis. Take-home exams must be submitted in typed-double spaced format in hard copy. It is your responsibility to be sure that you are able to print out the exam and bring it to class on time; e-mailed exams will not be accepted except by prior arrangement. Exams submitted late (without a documented, university-approved excuse) will be penalized one portion of a letter grade per day (or part thereof) that the exam is late.

Brief Papers: There will be *three short response/reaction papers* to be submitted at Discussion Sections at the end of each of the three parts of the course, which will help to provide a springboard for the discussion sections. These will be one-page response/reaction, based upon course readings and lectures, to a topic or theme raised in the course readings or lectures. Each response paper, along with participation in the related discussion section, will be worth 3 points towards your final grade. In addition, there will be *one written Internet-based assignment* that will be worth 1 point towards your final grade. More information will be provided in class about the brief papers.

Readings

All books have been ordered at the Columbia Bookstore and have also been placed on reserve in Butler Library.

- CQ Researcher – *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*
- DeSipio, Louis -- *Counting on the Latino Vote: Latinos as a New Electorate*
- Higham, John -- *Civil Rights & Social Wrongs: Black-White Relations Since WWII*
- Hollinger, David – *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism*
- McClain, Paula D. & Joseph Stewart -- “*Can We All Get Along?*”: *Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics*
- Patterson, Orlando -- *The Ordeal of Integration*
- Takaki, Ronald -- *A Different Mirror: A Multicultural History of America*

Course Calendar

(This is the anticipated course calendar, but may be subject to minor revision as the semester progresses.)

Part I: Ethnoracial Minorities and American Democracy

In Part I of this course, we will review major concept and ideas in the study of race and ethnicity and examine the position of minorities in majoritarian American democracy. Some of the questions that we will consider in this part are:

- *What are race and ethnicity and how do they relate to one another?*
- *How do the “color dichotomy” and the “ethnoracial pentagon” offer different perspectives on questions of race and ethnicity?*
- *What are the key political attributes of the major ethnoracial minority groups?*
- *How does American democracy manage the issue of “persistent minorities”?*
- *How does the paradigm of multiculturalism affect US politics?*

Week 1 – Week of September 1: Concepts in the Study of Race and Ethnicity Required Reading:

- Takaki: Ch. 1-3

Week 2 – Week of September 8: Majorities and Minorities in a Democracy Required Reading :

- James Madison, The Federalist Papers # 10; (can be accessed at: <http://memory.loc.gov/const/fed/fedpapers.html>)
- McClain & Stewart: Ch. 1, 6
- Takaki: Ch. 4-8

Week 3 – Week of September 15: A Brief Review of the “Ethnoracial Pentagon”

Required Reading:

- Hollinger: Ch. 1, 2
- CQ Researcher: Ch. 10, 12
- Takaki: Ch. 9-14

Week 4 – Week of September 22: Multiculturalism and Beyond

Required Reading: Hollinger: Ch. 3, 4, 5, Epilogue (“Postscript” is optional)

Part II: Political Participation

In Part II of the class, we will examine both unconventional (e.g., protest, social movement activity) and conventional (e.g., interest group activity, electoral behavior) modes of political participation by ethnoracial minority groups. Some of the major questions that we will consider in this part are:

- *How does the collective action dilemma affect ethnoracial minority participation?*
- *How and when do ethnoracial minorities employ different political strategies?*
- *How and when do ethnoracial minorities achieve their political goals?*
- *How can minorities overcome their disadvantages under majority-rule democracy?*
- *How do institutional factors influence the ability of minorities to participate?*

Week 5 – Week of September 29: Ethnoracial Minorities and Political Participation

Required Reading: McClain & Stewart: Ch. 2

****Discussion sections for Part 1 to be held on Thurs., Oct. 2*****

****Reaction Paper #1 and Exam #1 due in discussion sections on Thurs., Oct. 2****

Week 6 – Week of October 6: Protest Politics and Social Movements

Required Reading: Higham: Ch. 1, 3

Week 7 – Week of October 13: Interest Group Politics

Required Reading:

- McClain & Stewart: Ch. 3
- DeSipio, Ch. 1-2

Week 8 – Week of October 20: – Electoral Behavior

Required Reading:

- McClain & Stewart: Ch. 3, 4
- DeSipio, Ch. 3, 4, 7
- CQ Researcher, Ch. 3

Week 9– Week of October 27: Political Officeholding

Part III – Public Policy

In Part III we will examine the products of the political process – namely areas of public policies that are of particular salience to ethnorracial minority groups. Some of the questions that we will consider in this part are:

- *How does public policy result from the political process?*
- *Why has de-segregation by law been largely completed but not integration?*
- *In what ways does inequality persist for ethnorracial minorities?*
- *Why does affirmative action remain controversial?*
- *What are the arguments for and against reparations?*
- *How does immigration and language policy impact ethnorracial minorities?*

Week 10 – Week of November 3: Desegregation & Integration

****No class on Tues., Nov. 4 due to Election Day****

****Discussion sections for Part II to be held on Thurs., Nov. 6****

****Reaction Paper #2 and Exam #2 due in discussion sections on Thurs., Nov. 6****

Required Reading:

- Higham: Ch. 2
- CQ Researcher: Ch. 2, 4
- Patterson: 1, 2, 3

Week 11 – Week of November 10: Debates over Affirmative Action and Reparations

Required Reading:

- CQ Researcher: Ch. 1, 6
- Higham: Ch. 3, 4
- Patterson: Ch. 5, Conclusion

Week 12 – Week of November 17: The Persistence of Inequality: Poverty, Crime, Health, and other Disparate Outcomes

Required Reading:

- Higham: Ch.2 (review), 5
- CQ Researcher: Ch. 2

Week 13 – Week of November 24: Immigration, Naturalization, & Language Policy

****No class meeting on Thurs., Nov. 27 due to Thanksgiving holiday****

Required Reading:

- DeSipio: Ch. 5-6
- CQ Researcher: Ch. 9

Week 15 – Week of December 4: Course Conclusion

*****Discussion sections for Part III to be held on Thurs., Dec. 4*****

****Reaction Paper #3 and Exam #3 due in discuss sections on Thurs., Dec. 4****