

Race and Racism in American Politics

Department of Political Science
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Course Description

In 1903, W.E.B Du Bois famously stated "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line." Now, seventeen years into the Twenty-First Century, does race continue to play a pivotal role in shaping American politics?

In this course we'll consider five big ideas about the meaning and importance of race in American policy-making. First, we'll examine the concept and origins of race, asking what is race and why is it political? Next, we'll discuss how race affects the political identification and life-outcomes of Americans. Third, we'll explore how racial animus reveals itself and weigh competing arguments about the presence and form of racism in the contemporary United States. Fourth, we'll consider theories and methods for increasing minority representation in a democracy and finally, we'll examine how the "color line" is changing in the United States due to the expansion of Latino, Asian-American, and multi-racial populations.

Goals and Learning Objectives of the Course

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, you will learn the theoretical landscape of scholarship and major debates on race and racism in American politics. By the end of the course, you will be able to describe, interpret, and connect key questions and insights from the empirical study of race in America. Second, you will practice key professional skills including applying the course's material to produce an original research idea and completing two referee reports.

Required Texts

Purchase the following texts from either the bookstore or another vendor of your choice:

- Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. 2015. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. Routledge: Third Edition.
- Haney-Lopez, Ian F. 1996. *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race*. NYU Press.
- Prewitt, Kenneth. 2013. *What Is Your Race?* Princeton University Press.
- Waters, Mary C. 1990. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America* UC Berkeley.
- Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African American Politics*. Princeton University Press.
- Katznelson, Ira. 2006. *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America*. W.W. Norton.

- Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow*. The New Press.
- Mendelberg, Tali. 2001. *The Race Card: Campaign Strategies, Implicit Messages, and the Norm of Equality*. Princeton University Press.
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2006. *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*. Rowman and Littlefield.

A s s i g n m e n t s a n d C o u r s e R e q u i r e m e n t s

Concept Maps. 40%

At the conclusion of our first four units, you are required to develop and submit a concept map that organizes the unit's content around the central question. These concept maps are meant to serve primarily as a resource for you down the line. By organizing the unit's key concepts, authors, ideas, and connections in a single page, your map provides an easy framework to return to in the future when writing literature reviews or beginning new projects. Each map is worth 10% of your final grade.

Referee Reports. 30%

Referee reports are an important part of the professional work of academics. In this assignment, you will practice the mechanics of reviewing a piece of scholarship and providing constructive, specific advice to its author(s). You will write two referee reports for this course on a book or article of your choosing. Each report will be roughly 2-3 pages and worth 15% of your grade. When and on which reading you referee is largely up to you with one exception: at least one referee report is due before spring break (2/27) and the other before the end of term. More information about this assignment is available on Blackboard.

Research Pitch. 30%

In this assignment, you will apply the ideas and concepts of our course to your own research. In a 4-5 page paper, you will explore a research idea related to race and racism relevant to your research. Written like a brief grant or fellowship application, each pitch will: describe the question, the extant literature and puzzle (drawing primarily from our semester's readings), and propose a direction for how to study the question at hand. More information on this assignment is available on Blackboard and the paper is due on our exam date.

C o u r s e S c h e d u l e

Week 1: Class Introduction (1/9)

- No Reading

Note: MLK Day 1/16 – no class

UNIT 1: WHAT IS RACE? (AND WHY IS IT POLITICAL?)

In this unit, we'll consider the social, psychological, statistical, and institutional origins of race.

Week 2: Race as a Social Construction (1/23)

- Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States*. (Intro-Ch.6)

- Hirschman, Charles. 2004. "The Origin and Demise of the Concept of Race."
- Prewitt, Kenneth. 2013. *What Is Your Race?* (Ch. 2)
- Sen, Maya and Omar Waslow. 2016. "Race as a Bundle of Sticks: Designs that Estimate Effects of Seemingly Immutable Characteristics."
- Hochschild, Jennifer and Maya Sen. 2015. "Americans' Attitudes on Individual or Racially-Inflected Genetic Inheritance."

Week 3: Political Institutions as Race-Constructors (1/30)

- Haney-Lopez, Ian F. 1996. *White by Law*. Exclude chps. 4 & 5.
- Prewitt, Kenneth. 2013. *What Is Your Race?* Chapter 11.
- Krogstad, Jens Manuel. 2014. "U.S. Census Looking at Big Changes in How it Asks About Race and Ethnicity."

Week 4: The Instability of Racial Identity (2/6)

- Waters, Mary C. 1990. *Ethnic Options*.
- Davenport, Lauren, 2016. "The Role of Gender, Class, and Religion in Biracial Americans' Racial Labeling Decisions."
- Saperstein, Aliya and Andrew M. Penner. 2010. "The Race of a Criminal Record: How Incarceration Colors Racial Perceptions."

UNIT 2: WHY DOES RACE MATTER TO INDIVIDUALS?

In this unit, we'll consider the impact that racial identity has on individuals' experiences with politics, party identification, and life outcomes.

Week 5: Group-Based Identity Politics (2/13)

- Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule*. (Ch. 3-5, 8)
- Tajfel, Henri and John Turner. 1986. "The Social Identity Theory of Behavior."
- Hogg, Michael. 2003. "Intergroup Relations." In *Handbook of Social Psychology*, eds. John Delamater, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. New York, New York.
- Masuoka, Natalie. 2006. "Together they Become One: Examining the Predictors of Panethnic Group Consciousness Among Asian Americans and Latinos."
- DUE: Unit 1 Concept Map

Week 6: Wealth, Property, and Segregation (2/20)

- Katznelson, Ira. 2006. *When Affirmative Action Was White*. (Exclude Ch. 1 & 4)
- Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule*. (Ch. 2)
- Wilson, William Julius. 2011. "The Declining Significance of Race: Revisited & Revised."
- Logan, John R and Brian Stults. 2011. "Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians in Metropolitan America." (Skim)

Week 7: Police and the Carceral State (2/27)

- Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow*. (Ch. 1-3)
- Forman, James. "Racial Critique of Mass Incarceration: Beyond the New Jim Crow."
- Weaver, Vesla and Amy E. Lerman. 2010. "Political Consequences of the Carceral State."
- Goffman, Alice. 2009. "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto."
- DUE: First Referee Report

Note: 3/6 Spring Break, No Class

UNIT 3: WHAT DOES RACISM LOOK LIKE IN THE UNITED STATES?

In this unit, we'll consider modern forms of racism and their effects on political outcomes.

Week 8: Subtle and Implicit (3/13)

- Mendelberg, Tali. 2001. *The Race Card*.
- Omi & Winant. (Ch. 7)
- Alim, H. Samy and Geneva Smitherman. 2012. *Articulate While Black: Barack Obama, Language, and Race in the U.S.* (Ch. 2)
- Dovidio, John et. al. 1997. "On the Nature of Prejudice: Automatic and Controlled Processes."
- DUE: Unit 2 Concept Map

Week 9: Symbolic or Old-Fashioned? (3/20)

- Sears, David O., Carl P. Hensler and Leslie K. Speer. 1979. "Whites' Opposition to 'Busing': Self-Interest or Symbolic Politics?"
- Kinder, Donald and David Sears. 1981. "Prejudice and Politics: Symbolic Racism Versus Racial Threats to the Good Life."
- Sniderman, Paul M. and Philip Tetlock. 1986. "Symbolic Racism: Problems of Motive Attribution in Political Analysis."
- Sniderman, Paul M. and Philip Tetlock. 1986. "Reflections on American Racism."
- Feldman, Stanley and Leonie Huddy. 2005. "Racial Resentment and White Opposition to Race-Conscious Programs: Principles or Prejudice?"
- Tesler, Michael. 2013. "The Return of Old-Fashioned Racism to White Americans' Partisan Preferences in the Early Obama Era."

Week 10: Color-Blind Ideology (3/27)

- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2006. *Racism Without Racists*. (Exclude Ch. 3 & 10)
- Omi and Winant. (Ch. 8 & Conclusion)
- Prewitt, Kenneth. 2013. *What Is Your Race?* (Pgs 137 - 150)
- Scalia, Antonin. 1989. Richmond Decision Concurrence.

UNIT 4: ARE RACIAL MINORITIES REPRESENTED IN A DEMOCRACY?

In this unit, we'll examine theories and empirical work on the quality of representation for racial and ethnic minorities in American politics.

Week 11: Descriptive Representation (4/3)

- Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'."
- Butler, Daniel, and David Broockman. 2011. "Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators."
- Dovi, Suzanne. 2002. "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino Do?"
- Cameron, Charles, David Epstein and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "Do Majority-Minority

Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?"

- Lublin, David. 1999. "Racial Redistricting and African-American Representation: A Critique of 'Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?'"
- Lublin, David I. and Gary Segura. 2008. "An Evaluation of the Electoral and Behavioral Impacts of Majority-Minority Districts." In Levi, Margaret, Jack Knight, James Johnson, and Susan Stokes, eds.
- DUE: Unit 3 Concept Map

Week 12: Participation & (De Facto) Disenfranchisement (4/10)

- Verba, Schlozman, and Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality*. Ch 8 & 12.
- Manza, Jeff and Christopher Uggen. 2002. "Democratic Contradictions? Political Consequences of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States."
- Hamsher, David. 2005. "Counted out Twice: Power, Representation, and the Usual Residence Rule."
- Barreto, Matt, Stephen Nuno, and Gabriel Sanchez. 2009. "The Disproportionate Impact on Voter-ID Requirements on the Electorate – New Evidence from Indiana."
- Ansolabehere, Stephen. 2009. "Effects of Identification Requirements on Voting: Evidence from the Experience of Voters on Election Day."

UNIT 5: WHAT DOES THE "COLOR LINE" MEAN IN AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE AMERICA?

In this unit, we'll consider the effect that growing populations of Latino and Asian immigrants and citizens has on racial identity, coalition-building, and representation in America.

Week 13: A Changing America (4/17)

- Barreto, Matt and Sylvia Manzano. 2013. "Census 2012 Vote Data Highlight Dramatic Shift in Racial Diversity of American Electorate." *Latino Decisions*.
- Logan, John and Brian Stults. 2011. "The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census." *US2010 Project*.
- Davenport, Lauren D. 2016. "Beyond Black and White: Biracial Attitudes in Contemporary U.S. Politics."
- Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy*, March/April. Excerpted from *Who Are We*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Segura, Gary M. 2005. "Review. Who Are We? By Samuel Huntington."
- Bobo, Lawrence D. 2011. "Somewhere Between Jim Crow and Post-Racial."
- DUE: Unit 4 Concept Map

Week 14: Building Coalitions (4/24)

- Lopez, Linda and Adrian Pantoja. 2004. "Beyond Black and White: General Support for Race-Conscious Policies among African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Whites." *Political Research Quarterly* 57 (4): 633-642.
- Gay, Claudine. 2006. "Seeing Difference: The Effect of Economic Disparity on Black Attitudes toward Latinos." *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (4): 982-997
- Kaufmann, Karen. 2003. "Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions." *Political Research Quarterly* 56 (2):

199-210

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow*. (Pg. 255-end)
- DUE: Second Referee Report

Research Pitch Due (5/1)