

POLITICAL SCIENCE 5

Fall Session 2008, Section 9276
Tuesday & Thursday 11 – 12:25am
Classroom: D40

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Course Title: Ethnicity in the American Political Process

Course Description: In this course students will analyze racial and ethnic group relations in the context of the American political system and process. The relationship of racial and ethnic groups in American society to local, state, and national government will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on problems of assimilation and integration into the American political system.

Course Goal: While satisfying units needed for degree completion, this course allows students to develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for Constitutional Law in the United States. This course is transferable to UC and CSU systems.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Completion of English 1A with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, is strongly recommended. Tutors and instructional associates are available in the Learning Resource Center to help with writing assignments.

Method of Instruction: This course is delivered through lectures, multimedia presentations, and group discussions. Class attendance and participation are compulsory and contribute to your final grade. Outside of class, E-mail and Internet access are necessary for completion research and political participation assignments. Internet access is available at the Learning Resource Center and Open Computer Labs. Students are expected to have textbooks by the second day of class. Students are strongly encouraged to share the reading load with partners. Study groups are recommended.

Outcome Expectations for Students: Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to perform the following activities with 70% accuracy:

1. Describe and analyze the role of cultural identity in shaping norms and values toward the political process in the United States with emphasis on the role of racial and ethnic identities.
2. Describe and evaluate formal government actions, legislation, and court decisions, and executive orders as they relate to race and ethnicity in the political process.
3. Identify and explain theories of assimilation, amalgamation, pluralism, and others.
4. Identify and compare the various interest groups representing racial and ethnic populations and their roles within the political policy making process.
5. Evaluate the impact of the mass media in portraying the various racial and ethnic groups on political policies and processes in American society.
6. Describe and analyze the impact of current and past immigration policies on different ethnic groups in the United States.
7. Examine and evaluate the impact of different forms of discrimination experienced by various ethnic groups in the political process.
8. Compare and contrast public policies that influence race and ethnic relations in America.
9. Evaluate the struggle for inclusion in the democratic system by minority groups within the dynamics of urban politics.

Course Requirements:

Attendance & class participation	20 points
Research essay 1	60 points
Research essay 2	60 points
3 Exams, 30 points each	90 points

Grade Scale:

400 – 350 points = A
349 – 300 points = B
299 – 250 points = C
249 – 200 points = D

Midterm exam	50 points	199 or less points = F
<u>Final exam (cumulative)</u>	<u>120 points</u>	
Total	400 points	

Student Responsibilities:

No make-ups on missed exams, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Assignments submitted late will have points deducted, 10% per day.

For example, an assignment worth 40 points submitted 3 days late will be deducted 30% (30% of 40 = 12 points). So the maximum points for a good research paper is 28 points (40 – 12 = 28).

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course. The instructor is not responsible for dropping students from the final roster. Students who drop the course must file for a drop or a (W) Withdrawal with admissions & records. Students who fail to do so and appear on the final grade roster will receive a failing grade of F. Important dates to remember:

The last day to add the class is Friday, September 05, 2008.

The last day to drop the class without a notation on student record is Friday, September 19, 2008.

The last day to drop the class with a notation of W on student record is Friday, November 14, 2008.

Students must request an (I) Incomplete from the instructor prior to Friday, December 05, 2008.

Absences and classroom standards: Class attendance is very important and critical for successful completion of this course. Students are responsible for material from the textbook as well as class presentations. At any time during the semester, a student with four unexcused absences will be dropped from the course. Be prompt, as tardiness will not be tolerated. Leaving the class early without prior notice is considered an absence. Pagers and mobile phones should be turned off or on silent mode so not to be nuisance. Instructor reserves the right to make alterations to any assignments or required readings and/or due dates with ample notification in the event of unforeseen events.

Methods of Evaluation: All final drafts of written assignments must be submitted word processed, using font size 12, with standard one-inch margins.

1. Research Essay 1: In a three-to-four page essay, contrast two different ethnic groups in the United States. Include the political, social, and economic differences between the two and the challenges they have faced and will face in the United States' political systems due to their ethnic origin. Make every attempt to incorporate trends in the election of 2008. The last day to submit this assignment is 10/09/08.
2. Research Essay 2: In a three-to-four page essay, analyze from the viewpoint of two ethnic groups the issue of whether undocumented immigrants in the United States should be allowed to acquire legal status. Detail how it would affect those two ethnic groups economically, socially, and politically. Provide specific examples and sources to support your analysis. This assignment is due before 11/25/08.
3. Exams: There are three scheduled throughout the course as shown in the syllabus schedule. Each exam consists of multiple-choice and short answer questions covering assigned materials outlined in the syllabus schedule. Failure to bring a scantron, #2 pencil, writing paper, and a pen may equate to forfeiture of opportunity to take the exam.
4. Mid-term Exam: There is one mid-semester exam scheduled for 10-21-08. The exam consists of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions covering course content presented in readings and lectures.
5. Final Exam: Scheduled for Wednesday, December 09, 2008, this cumulative exam consists of multiple-choice questions and short answer essays. It covers all course content presented in readings and lectures.
6. Attendance & class participation: Perhaps the simplest points awards for attendance, punctuality, and participation in class discussions and in-class activities.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Students with verified disabilities requiring accommodations should make a specific request of the instructor in a timely manner at the start of the semester and at least one week prior to the identified need. Special services are available on campus to meet needs outside of class.

Course Textbook: *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*, 3rd edition, CQ Press, Washington, D.C.

Topic 1 Course Introduction
Course Syllabus
Course Requirements
Reading for next class: Handout –
“Race, Ethnicity, and Politics in American History”
By Michael Barone

Topic 2 A Land of Diversity
Quiz #1
Reading for next class: Chapter 1

Topic 3 Racial Issues in American Politics
Affirmative Action
Reading for next topic: Chapter 2

Topic 4 Discrimination
Reading for next topic: Chapter 3

Topic 5 Redistricting Disputes
Reading for next topic: Chapter 4

Topic 6 School Desegregation
Reading for next topic: Chapter 5

Topic 7 Black Colleges, HACU, Tribal Colleges
Reading for this topic: Chapter 5 and
Supplemental readings

Topic 8 Quiz #2 – Ch.1 to 5
Reading for next topic: Chapter 6

Topic 8 Reparations Movement
Reading for next topic: Chapter 7

Topic 9 Environmental Justice
Mid-term Exam review
First Essay Assignment Due

Topic 10 Mid-term Exam – Ch 1 to 7
Reading for next meeting: Chapter 9
(Chapter 8 is not mandatory)

Topic 11 Ethnic and Immigration Issues in
American Politics
Illegal Immigration
Reading for next topic: Chapter 10

Topic 12 The Future of Latinos
Reading for next topic: Handout

Topic 13 Asian American Politics
Reading for next topic: Chapter 12
Quiz #3 – Ch. 9 to 12

Topic 14 American Indians
Reading for next topic: Chapter 11 and
Handout

Topic 15 Other Political Issues
Reading for next topic: Handout

Topic 16 Other Ethnic and Religious Minorities
Second Essay Assignments Due
Review for Final

12/09/08 Final Exam Bring scantron, paper, pen,
and #2 pencil