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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-4:00 PM, or by appointment

PO 351. Race and Politics.  
Fall 2012, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00-11:00 AM,  
CAS 116

This course examines the role of race and ethnicity in shaping American politics and policy. Combining research from history, political science, sociology, and economics, we will consider a range of important topics: the first portion of the course will feature a broad historical overview, from the 1700s to the present day, exploring the role of American public policy in creating an entrenched racial order. We will then move to investigating how this order shapes contemporary American political behavior and coalition-building. The next section of the course looks at a series of policy case studies—from incarceration to schools—to assess the continuing role of race and ethnicity in driving American policy. We conclude the course by exploring whether major American demographic trends, including immigration and multiracialism, might be reshaping this longstanding racial and ethnic order.

In addition to completing the readings for each week, students will be expected to complete a 4-5 page paper, an in-class midterm, and a take-home final assessing their knowledge of the course material.

**Required Texts**


Readings marked with a (*) can be found on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

**4-5 Page Paper**

The first assignment for this course will be a 4-5 page (double-spaced, 12 pt font, with 1-inch margins) paper due to me by e-mail (kleinst@bu.edu) on October 5 at 9:00 PM. This paper will be based on course lectures and readings
and will not require any outside research. I will distribute a prompt for the paper, with a choice of several possible topics, on September 21 by e-mail.

In order to be fair to students who turn in their papers on time, I will apply late penalties. Students will have a one-hour grace period after the paper’s due date to submit it without penalty. After the grace period, students will lose a full letter grade (for example, from A- to B-) for every day or portion of a day that the paper is late.

**Midterm Exam**

There will be a one-hour midterm exam on October 24 in lieu of a class lecture. The exam will be closed book and cover all material in the class up to the date of the midterm. In addition, the lecture on October 22 will be a midterm review session.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be a 24-hour take-home exam taking place between 9:00 AM December 17 and 9:00 AM December 18. The exam will be designed to take no more than three hours, not the full 24 hours, and will cover all course material. Students will be able to use books and notes when completing the final exam.

**Participation**

Lectures will be highly participatory in nature. Students are therefore expected to have done the readings before class and come prepared to participate.

**Grading**

- **4-5 Page Paper** 20%
- **Midterm Exam** 30%
- **Final Exam** 40%
- **Participation** 10%

**I. Introduction to Race and Politics**

September 5. Introduction

September 7. What is race?
II. American Public Policy and the Creation of Racial/Ethnic Orders

The Politics of Creating an American Racial Order

September 10. Slavery
*Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom, Chapter 15

September 12. Civil War and Reconstruction.
*Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction, Chapter 3, pp. 77-110

September 14. The Emergence of Jim Crow

Listen to personal narrative Charles Gratton:
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/narrative_gratton.html

September 17. No Class. Rosh Hashanah.

September 19. Demography, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement
*Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 7

September 21. Riots and the Conservative Retrenchment
*Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 8

The Politics of Creating an American Ethnic Order

September 24. 19th and Early 20th Century Asian Immigrants

Read/watch stories of Masaru Kawaguchi
(http://www.tellingstories.org/internment/mkawaguchi/index.html) and Bess Chin
(http://www.tellingstories.org/internment/bchin/index.html)

September 26. No class. Yom Kippur

September 28. European Immigrants in the 19th Century
*Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color, Chapter 2, pp. 39-68

October 1. Whiteness and 20th Century European Immigration
*Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color*, Chapter 2, pp. 68-90

**October 3. Rising Hispanic Immigration**

*Dowell Myers, *Immigrants and Boomers*, Chapter 3

**October 5. The Contemporary American Ethnic Order**

Philip Kasinitz et al. (2008). *Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age*, Chapter 2

PAPER DUE

**III. The Impact of Race/Ethnicity on Contemporary American Political Behavior, Attitudes, and Coalitions**

**October 9. Race, Vote Choice, and Turnout**

*Michael C. Dawson, *Behind the Mule*, Chapter 3

**October 10. Racially Coded Campaign Appeals**

*Tali Mendelberg, *The Race Card*, Chapter 6

Watch Willie Horton ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC9j6Wfdq3o

**October 12. Racially Coded Policy Preferences**


**October 15. Conflict/Coalitions: Economics and Racial Conflict**

*Claire Kim, *Bitter Fruit*, Chapter 4

**October 17. Conflict/Coalitions: Class, Race, and Schools and The Case of Boston Busing**

Letter to black students:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/sources/ps_boston.html

Kevin White and James Brown Speech, April 5, 1968:
http://www.wgbh.org/articles/From-The-WGBH-Vault-Trying-Times-5453

**October 19. Conflict/Coalitions: Urban Mayoral Elections**

*Karen Kaufmann, *The Urban Voter*, Chapter 5

**October 22. Midterm Review**
October 24. MIDTERM

IV. The Impact of Race/Ethnicity on Contemporary American Public Policy

October 26. Incarceration


October 29. Housing Policy


*Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, American Apartheid, Chapter 3, pp. 81-97

October 31. Family Policy


November 2. Wealth

*Conley, Being Black, Living in the Red. “From financial to social to human capital: assets and wages”

November 5. Schools

Philip Kasinitz et al. (2008). Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age, Chapter 5


V. The Transformation of the American Racial Order?

November 12. Is America Post-Racial?

Take the IAT: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/selectatest.html


**November 14. Multiracialism: Racial Mixture in the US**


*Renee C. Romano, Race Mixing*, Chapter 2

**November 16. Multiracialism: The Politics of the Census**


**November 19. Multiracialism: Contemporary Politics**

*Eugene Robinson, Disintegration*, Chapters 7 and 8

**November 26. Immigration: Incorporation**

Philip Kasinitz et al. (2008). *Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age*, Chapter 8

**November 28. Immigration: Institutional Incorporation**

*Helen Marrow, New Destination Dreaming*, Chapter 6

**November 30. Immigration: Growing Political Power and a Social Contract**

Philip Kasinitz et al. (2008). *Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age*, Chapter 9

**December 3. Immigration: Illegal Immigration**

December 5. Cohort Change: Racial Attitudes

December 7. Cohort Change: Obama and “New Wave” Politicians
*Gwen Ifill, *Breakthrough,* Chapters 1 and 2

December 10. Race and the American Dream
*Jennifer Hochschild, *Facing Up the American Dream,* Chapter 3

December 12. Final Exam Review