



POLI 391R
Introduction to U.S. Racial and Ethnic Politics
Fall 2007

Class: 9:05-9:55a.m. --- Monday, Wednesday, Friday in Gambrell 202

Professor Todd C. Shaw

Office/Phone:
 331 Gambrell Hall
 777-6507

Office Hours:
 Tuesdays
 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

E-mail: shawtc@sc.edu
Class Blackboard: <https://blackboard.sc.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Note: Prof. Shaw reserves the right to announce modifications to the syllabus. Keep informed.

Course Description



Race and ethnicity have posed enduring conflicts and perennial questions for the leaders as well as citizens of the United States especially in the creation of equitable public policies. Our primary objective for this term will be to consider how and why the concepts of race and ethnicity have shaped the political development of the United States and still matter today. To do this, we will examine major theories that attempt to explain race, racism, and ethnicity in U.S. politics. The substantive focus of this course will be upon the political experiences of five specific groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latinas/os, Asian Americans, and European/ White Americans. By examining these group particularities within a broader context, we hope to understand not only the basis for continuing conflicts and dilemmas but to speculate what, if at all, are the prospects for intra-group solidarity and inter-group coalition-building.

Course Requirements

Required Text. One of the two required texts for this course is by Paula McClain and Joseph Stewart. 2006. *“Can We All Get Long?”: Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics*, available at the USC Russell Bookstore and other local booksellers. The second set of required texts include several on-line readings that can be accessed through our class Blackboard. Under the “Schedule of Topics & Assignments” a indicates that reading is on-line.

I have high expectations of all of my students, because I know you are capable of great things. What follows is a description of each type of course assignment. Unless stipulated otherwise, any submitted assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced, proofread and given directly to me (Prof. Shaw.) Any late assignment risks a penalty, but if you do not submit your paper in class have it date-stamped and time-stamped by one of the secretaries in the Department of Political Science, 350 Gambrell Hall, and then put it my departmental mailbox.

In this course, I give you the option of selecting between two grading systems so you can decide which system of evaluation is a fairer test of your abilities. No later than Friday, September 14th you must decide between these two options. After then you cannot switch:

OPTION A --- No Research Paper	Percentage of Total Credit	OPTION B --- Research Paper	Percentage of Total Credit
• First Exam	15	• First Exam	10
• Second Exam	25	• Second Exam	20
• Final Exam	35	• Final Exam	35
• Class Participation *	10	• Research Paper (15 pages) **	20
• Attendance & Quizzes	15	• Attendance & Quizzes	15
	100 %		100%

* You may also earn up to 3 % in extra credit points with outside assignments (see below.)

** You may use your class participation assignments to earn up to 3 % in extra credit (see below.)

Grading Scale: All grades in this class will be based upon a 0 to 100 scale whereas: A = 100 to 90; B+ = 89 to 86; B = 85 to 80; C+ = 79 to 76; C = 75 to 70; D+ = 69 to 66; D = 65 to 60; F = 59 and below.

First, Second, and Final Exams: For both Options A & B, these exams will be held in-class (see the schedule for dates) and based upon the assigned course readings and lecture notes. The format for each will include the identification of terms as well as an essay question(s.) The Second and Final Exams will be cumulative. Notice that you are rewarded for improving over the course of the term.

Class Participation & Extra Credit: For those selecting Option A, there will be a few assignments (the vast majority of them in-class) that I will ask you to complete including what I call “Friday Forums” --- more on this later. You may earn also up to 3 % in extra credit for the term if you attend an event or presentation that I select because it is relevant to racial and ethnic politics.

For those selecting Option B, you can also complete class participation assignments and earn up to 3 % in extra credit based upon the point values I assign to each. You may also complete one or more of the same extra credit assignments I assign, but the total points you earn for class participation and extra credit assignments cannot exceed 3 %. Later I will give everyone specific guidelines for the completion of all extra credit assignments.

Research Paper: This assignment applies only to those selecting Option B. This paper challenges you to conduct original research on a topic relevant to US racial and ethnic politics. Ensure this paper is no less than 15 pages (not including the cover page and bibliography). To fulfill this assignment you must:

- (a) Select a topic of greatest interest to you where you consider a research question relevant to US racial and ethnic politics. For example, the politics of Native American gaming, Latino electoral power in Los Angeles, the presidential candidacy of Barack Obama, White ethnic identity today, etc.
- (b) Submit a 2-page, outline and bibliography for the paper by October 19th where you present: (1) the title and thesis of your paper; (2) the proposed outline for your paper; and (3) a well-researched bibliography with at least (5) five scholarly sources --- more on this later. Failure to submit these will result in a 5-point deduction from the final grade of your paper.
- (c) Schedule an appointment with Prof. Shaw before or after you submit your proposal because your topic must be approved by Prof. Shaw. Failure to do so will result in a 5-point deduction from the final grade of your paper.
- (d) Submit the final draft of this paper to Prof. Shaw by December 7th, by 5 PM.

Attendance & Quizzes: For both Options A & B, your class attendance will account for 10 % of your final grade. There will be at least two (2) quizzes during the term (worth 5 % total), but I reserve the right to administer more quizzes if attendance or the number of students completing the readings by the assigned dates are very low. So “READ!!” ☺

Rules and Resources

Ground Rules. I know that matters of race and ethnicity can be difficult to openly discuss in a classroom setting. But there will be a “free exchange of ideas” in this classroom where no one is purposely made uncomfortable. To ensure our discourse is civil, we will observe the following ground rules: (1) attack ideas and not persons; (2) if you don’t like the heat, at least try to see the light — i.e. you are certainly free to disagree with a classmate’s point, but try and understand why she or he holds that view); and (3) everyone has a right to be heard, but no one has a right to be *over*-heard (in other words, please give everyone a chance to speak). ☺

Course Resources. You can access required on-line readings, your grades as well as copies of the syllabus, class assignments, handouts, and announcements through our class Blackboard.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Dates	Topics	Activities and/or Assignments
8/24	Introductions	Explanation
Topic 1: An Overview of Race & Ethnicity in the North America		
8/27 – 8/31	<u>A: Defining Race, Ethnicity, & Racism</u>	Lecture & Film
9/3	NO CLASS --- Labor Day	

9/5	Review & Discussion of Topic 1-A	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☪ Cornell & Hartman, “Mapping the Terrain”, pp. 15-38 ☪ Tatum “Defining Racism: Can We Talk?”, pp. 100-107 ☪ Thomas, “Victims and Heroes...”, pp. 79-87
9/7 – 9/10	<u>B. The Origins of the American Racial Worldview</u>	Lecture & Film
9/12	Review & Discussion of Topic 1-B	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☪ Smedley, “Race as Modern Ideal,” & “The Arrival of Africans...”, pp. 15-36, 95-121. McClain and Stewart, chapter 1.
9/14	Time Out...Friday Forum! <u>OPTION A or B?</u>	Class-led issue discussion
9/17-9/21	<u>C: Group Status, Civil Rights, & Immigration</u>	Lecture
9/24	Review & Discussion of Topic 1-C	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☪ Schlesinger, <i>The Disuniting of America</i> , pp. 9-20. McClain and Stewart, chapter 2. ☪ DeSipio & de la Garza, “...US Immigration Policy”, pp. 15-59.
9/26	FIRST EXAM	

TOPIC 2: The Contemporary Economics & Politics of Race and Ethnicity

9/28-10/1	<u>A. Economics & Group Competition</u>	Lecture
10/3	Review & Discussion of Topics 2-A	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☪ Model “The Ethnic Niche...”, pp. 161-193. ☪ Bobo and Hutchings, “Perceptions of Racial Group

Competition...”, pp. 1-29.

10/5 – 10/8	<u>B. Race, Group Identity, and Ideology</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
10/10	Review & Discussion of Topics 2-B	<u>Read by this date:</u> Stewart & McClain, pp. 67-91. ☞ Fernandez, “Government Classification of Multiracial/Multiethnic People”, pp. 15-36.
10/11 - 10/14	FALL BREAK	
10/17	<u>C. Policy Debates: Affirmative Action</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
10/19	Time Out...Friday Forum! <u>Paper Proposal due!</u>	Class-led issue discussion
10/22	<u>D. Voting & Minority Representation</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
10/24	Review & Discussion of Topics 2-C & 2-D	<u>Read by this date:</u> Stewart & McClain, pp. 92-123 & chapter 4. ☞ Bell, “The Racial Preference Licensing Act,” pp. 189-201.
10/26	SECOND EXAM	

TOPIC 3: Diverse Controversies involving Racial Group Status

10/29-10/31	<u>A. Claims of American Indian Ethnicity</u>	<u>Lecture & Film</u>
11/2-11/5	<u>B. The Increasing Diversity of Black America</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
11/7	Review & Discussion of Topics 3-A, 3-B	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☞ Nagel, “American Indian Ethnic Renewal”, pp. 947-65 ☞ Rogers, “Afro-Caribbean Immigrants, African

		Americans...”, pp. 15-59.
		McClain & Stewart, pp. 231-241.
11/19-11/12	C. The “Invention” of Whiteness	Lecture
11/14-11/16	D. Latinos and the “Black vs. White” Paradigm	Lecture & Film
11/19	Review & Discussion of Topics 3-C, 3-D	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☞ Roediger, <i>Working Toward Whiteness</i> , pp. 1-34. ☞ Landale & Oropesa, “White, Black, or Puerto Rican,” pp. 231-254 McClain & Stewart, pp. 242-251.
11/21-11/25	THANKSGIVING	
11/26-11/28	E. Asian Americans & “Racial Triangles”	Lecture
11/30-12/3	F. “Can We Get Along”? Multiracial Coalitions	Lecture
12/5	Review & Discussion of Topics 3-E, 3-F	<u>Read by this date:</u> ☞ Kim, “The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans,” pp. 39-78 McClain & Stewart, pp. 251-255, & chapters 5 & 6. <i>Optional:</i> Tatum, “Embracing a Cross-Racial Dialogue”, pp. 193-206.
12/7	The Final Friday Forum! ☺	Exam review & open discussion
12/7	<u>RESEARCH PAPERS</u> due, 5 PM, 331 Gambrell	
12/15	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> -- 9 AM, 202 Gambrell	