

U.S. Racial Politics: New Deal to the Present
Political Science 449/549
CRN: 37625

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Course description:

In this course, we will examine the ways that race shaped the major political dynamics in the United States from the Great Depression to the present.

Materials:

There are two books for this course, available in the bookstore. The books are *The Unsteady March*, by Philip Klinkner and Rogers Smith; and *When Affirmative Action Was White*, by Ira Katznelson. PS 5549 will have one additional text: Lowndes, Novkov and Warren, eds. *Race and American Political Development*. All other readings will be available on Canvas.

Requirements for 449: This is a *heavy* reading course

1. **Seven in-class quizzes.** These quizzes will assess your comprehension of the assigned reading, lectures and class discussions. Your lowest two scores will be dropped. No make-up quizzes are possible. **(50% of final grade)**
2. **Midterm in-class exam (25% of final grade)**
3. **Final exam (25% of final grade)**
4. **Participation:** Students will be expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Constructive, informed, respectful participation that contributes directly to conversations about the course material will raise borderline grades; lack of participation may result in lower grades.

Policies:

Students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the professor soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Class attendance. You will be expected to attend class. If you miss a class day on which a quiz is given, you must bring a doctor's note to re-take it. Unexcused absences will be taken into account in determining your class participation grade, regardless of the reason.

Regrading of materials. You may request re-grading of materials that the instructors have graded. If you wish to make such a request, contact me for a copy of the re-grading policy. You will be asked to provide a written explanation of why you wish to have the assignment regarded.

Plagiarism or cheating. This one's simple: don't do it. Don't even think about doing it. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's *words* or *ideas* without giving the original author credit by citing him or her. If you use someone else's language directly, you must use quotation marks. If you rely on another person's ideas in creating your argument, you must provide a citation. This is obviously required for research papers, but I will expect careful attention to citation in the argumentative essays as well. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please contact me before you submit the assignment for grading. If you plagiarize or cheat in this class, the **BEST** outcome you can hope to achieve is a failing grade. Ignorance will not provide a defense to the application of this policy.

Learning Goals:

Substantive Learning Goals:

- To give students a deeper understanding of US racial politics as expressed in institutions, political structure (Constitution, federalism), social movements, and political culture.
- To give students a deeper understanding of major developments in US politics since the New Deal, including World War II, the Cold War, the 1960s, "the Reagan Revolution," 9/11, and post 1965 immigration politics.

Critical Skills and Tools:

- To identify, describe, and define basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning US politics
- To analyze political issues and phenomena using political science concepts, theories, and methods through discussion and writing.
- To use argument and evidence effectively to communicate original analysis of political phenomena.

Week One: Introduction: Race as a Political Phenomenon

Monday:

Course introduction

- Begin in-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Wednesday:

- Omi and Winant, "On the Theoretical Status of Race"
- Finish in-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Week Two: Race and the New Deal

Monday: No class. Martin Luther King Jr Day

Wednesday:

- "The New Deal" from Alan Brinkley, *American History: A Survey*
- Katznelson, preface and chapters 2, 3, and 4

Week Three: World War Two

Monday:

- Klinkner and Smith, chapters 5 and 6

Wednesday:

- Ronald Takaki, "The Watershed of World War II: Democracy and Race" from *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944)

Week Four: Cold War Civil Rights

Monday:

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 7

Wednesday:

- Mary Dudziak, "Telling Stories about Race and Democracy" from *Cold War Civil Rights*.
- Film: "Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power"

Week Five: Black Liberation and State Response

Monday:

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 8
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Give Us the Ballot and We Will Transform the South"
- Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet"
- Lyndon B. Johnson's Commencement Address at Howard University: "To Fulfill These Rights"

Wednesday:

In-class midterm

Week Six: The Politics of Backlash

Monday:

- Lowndes, *From the New Deal to the New Right*, chapters 4 and 5
- Film: "George Wallace: Settin' the Woods on Fire"

Wednesday:

- Jonathan Reider, "The Rise of the 'Silent Majority.'"

Week Seven: Colorblindness, White Retrenchment

Monday:

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 9
- "Bill Clinton's Stone Mountain Moment" Nathan J. Robinson

Wednesday:

- Taylor *From #Blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation*, chapters 1 and 2

Week Eight: Black Lives Matter

Monday:

- Taylor *From #Blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation*, chapters 4 and 5

Wednesday:

- Taylor *From #Blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation*, chapters 6 and 7

Week Nine: Immigrant Struggles

Monday:

- The Story of PCUN and the Farmworker Movement in Oregon
- Natalia Molina, *Racial Scripts*, Chapter 1 "Placing Mexican Immigration within the Larger Landscape of Race Relations in the United States."

Wednesday:

- Shane Bauer, "Undercover With a Border Militia."

Week Ten: Trumpism

Monday:

- Chip Berlet, "'Trumping' Democracy: Right-Wing Populism, Fascism, and the Case for Action"
- Joe Lowndes, "From Silent Majority to White-Hot Rage: Observations from Cleveland"
- Matthew Lyons, "Calling Them Alt-Right Helps Us Fight Them."

Wednesday:

- Nikhil Singh, "Trump and the Present Crisis."

Final Exam: 10:15 Friday, March 24