Government 319  
Racial and Ethnic Politics in the United States  
Spring 2007

TTH 11:40am-12:55pm  
Baker Labs 135

Professor  
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Office Hours: T 2-4pm or by appt.

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Course Web Page available through  
http://blackboard.cornell.edu

This course will provide a general survey of constraints and opportunities in minority politics, focusing on tensions between separatism and assimilation, electoral politics and protest politics, immigrants and minorities, and cooperation and competition within and among minority groups. The purpose of the course is not only to pinpoint the similarities and differences of the agendas and strategies adopted by minority groups, but to indicate the interaction between “minority” politics and American politics as a whole.

Requirements  
Students are required to write three short (5-7 pages) papers through the semester. The first will be due February 23rd, the second March 16th, and a third will be due April 13th. Each paper will allow students to focus in more depth on one of the issues raised in lecture or discussion, and should be responsive to the substantive and theoretical issues raised in class. Students are encouraged to consult with the TAs and/or professor about their ideas for the papers. In addition, there will be a scheduled final exam at the end of the semester during the exam period (May 16th).

Each paper will be worth 20% of your final grade and the final exam will count for an additional 30% of your grade. 10% of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation in class. There will be no sections. Participation in class is taken seriously-- come prepared for discussion. Do the reading!

Papers should be typed, and follow an accepted social science footnote and bibliographic style. Be careful—cite all your sources! Suggested page length does not include title page and bibliography. Papers will be due electronically—by email—by 5:00 p.m. of the date specified. Thereafter, papers will be considered late, and your grade will be penalized for every day they are not turned in. Extensions may be granted only after consulting and receiving confirmation from the professor and/or TA.
Readings

Some major readings are available to buy at Cornell’s bookstore. These include:

- Michael Dawson, *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*
- Doug McAdam, *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*
- C. Van Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*

All other required readings for the course are available on the course Blackboard site and hard copies of the books are on reserve at Uris Library. These readings are marked below as (e). Any reserve readings should be listed under the professor’s last name (Jones-Correa) or the course name.

Sections

There will be no sections for this course. Discussions of the material will take place during the class times.
University Policies

Holidays
We respect and uphold University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually, and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; racial, ethnic, gender, sexual preference, or religious discrimination; and all forms of harassment.

Disabilities
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, your TA is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except in unusual circumstances, so that arrangements can be made. Requests made just before papers or exams are due are unlikely to be honored. Students are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism, or academic theft, is passing off someone else’s work as your own. You are responsible for not plagiarizing, and are expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity (available at http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/main.html). Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work. Participation in this class implies permission from students to submit their written work to services that check for plagiarism.

Please-- don’t even think about plagiarizing. When in doubt, always cite the source material. If you have any questions, talk to the TAs and/or professor. Any confirmed case of plagiarism will receive an ‘F’ for the course, and students may be brought before the Academic Review Committee.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding course policies or other matters, ask the course TAs and/or professor.
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

1/23: **Introduction: Two Acts**
_The 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1965 Immigration Act_

1/25: **Thinking about ‘Race’**

Pew Hispanic Center, “From 200 Million to 300 Million: The Numbers Behind Population Growth” October 10, 2006. (BB)
Urban Institute, Immigration Studies Program, Brief n.2 “The Dispersal of Immigrants in the 1990s” November 2002 pp. 1-2. (BB)

1/30 and 2/1: **Racial, Ethnic Identities and Politics**

What is a ‘race’ or ‘ethnicity’? What makes ‘race’ or ‘ethnicity’ politically relevant? What are racial/ethnic minorities? Where do ethnic categories come from and what do they mean? Are immigrants minorities?

Reynolds Farley, “Presentation to the President’s Initiative on Race,” 1998 (BB)
Lawrence Wright, “One Drop of Blood” _The New Yorker_, July 25, 1994 v. 70 n. 22 (BB)
Miri Song, “Comparing Minorities’ Ethnic Options” _Ethnicities_ 1:1 pp. 57-82. (BB)

2/6 and 2/8: **Slavery and the Constitution**

Is racism built into the fabric of the American republic? What, if anything, is owed to populations which suffered harm?

Daryl Fears, “In Tulsa, Keeping Alive 1921s Painful Memory; Recognition, Reparations Sought for Race Riot” _Washington Post_, May 31, 2005. (BB)
2/13 2/15: Immigration and Race

Does it make a difference how people came? Does it make a difference when they came?


John Logan, “How Race Counts for Hispanic Americans” Lewis Mumford Center, State University at Albany, July 2003. (BB)


2/20 2/22: Membership and Citizenship

How have the boundaries and contents of citizenship fluctuated over time?


Aristide Zolberg, “Guarding the Gates in a World on the Move” Social Science Research Council “After September 11th” 2001. (BB)

Samuel Huntington, “Why Mexico is a Problem,” American Enterprise Online v. 11 December 2000. (BB)

Jeanne Batalova, “Spotlight on Naturalization Trends,” Migration Policy Institute, September 2006. (BB)


Jamin Raskin “Time to Give Aliens the Vote (Again),” The Nation 256:13 April 5 1993 pp. 1, 451-2. (BB)

* First Paper Due Friday 2/23 5pm *
2/27 3/1: Protest: Organizing From Below

What makes collective grassroots mobilization possible? How effective is it?


3/6 3/8: Is Minority Politics Gendered?

How do the politics of gender fit in with the politics of race?


3/13 3/15: Voting Rights

What was the purpose of the VRA? Has it been effective? Is it consistent with democratic principles? What are the alternatives?


* Second Paper Due Friday 3/16 5pm *

3/20 3/22: ** Spring Break **


How effective has electoral mobilization been? Are there still advantages to other avenues of mobilization? When and why?


4/3 4/5: The Limits of Electoral Politics: Representation

Does descriptive representation really help? How and what do minority representatives represent?


Christine Leveaux Sharpe and James Garand, “Race, Roll Calls and Redistricting: The Impact of Race-Based Redistricting on Congressional Roll-Call” Political Research Quarterly 54:1 (March 2001) pp. 31-51. (BB)

** Fourth paper due Friday April 13, 5pm **

4/10 4/12: Coalitions and Competition

America’s minorities are becoming more ethnically diverse. What are the implications for minority politics? Will there be one minority politics or many?


Paula McClain et al. “Racial Distancing in a Southern City: Latino Immigrants’ Views of Black Americans,” (BB)


4/17 4/19: The Limits of Electoral Politics: Segregation and Racial Discrimination


4/24 4/26: Inequality

*Is the issue in American politics class or race? Does class play a role in minority politics? Do class differences become political differences? If not, why not?*


Nathan Glazer, “Why Americans Don’t Care About Income Inequality” m.s. (BB)


5/1 5/3: Affirmative Action/Preferences

*What is Affirmative Action? Should we support preferences and if so, on what basis?*


David Hollinger, “The One Drop Rule and the One Hate Rule” Daedalus Winter 2005 pp. 18-28. (BB)

Jonathan Glater, “College Minority Aid to All Comers” New York Times March 14, 2006. (BB)


Shankar Vedantam, “In Boardrooms and in Courtrooms, Diversity Makes a Difference,” January 15, 2007 (BB)


5/16: Final Exam 2:00pm MG165