

Daniel Lipson, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Class schedule: 12:40-2:30pm Tue and Thu
Office hours (212F Dewing): Wed 1-5pm & by appt.
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Political Science 325: Race & Politics

Third Revisions | updated on Week 10 Tue Jun 03 | See change/correction below in orange font

Second Revisions | updated on Week 6 Thu May 08 | See changes/corrections below in green font

First Revisions | updated on Week 4 Tue Apr 22 | See changes/corrections below in red font

Course Purpose and Goals

Racial conflict and stratification have endured throughout our nation's history as central tensions and features of American politics. Today, three storylines concerning race in America prevail in American political discourse. According to the "Two Nations" portrait, America continues to be divided into two nations – one white, one black, separate but not equal. According to this view, overt racism has given way to covert racism, but it is merely the same racism dressed up in different clothing because the overt racism is no longer socially acceptable in American discourse. The second, "multicultural" portrait is one of an increasingly multicultural and racially inclusive nation that recognizes both the biological insignificance and the cultural wealth of racial diversity in America and around the globe. An alternative, "colorblind" storyline holds that the powerful forces of white guilt and liberal civil rights groups have combined to create an entrenched system of reverse racism, which has obstructed the colorblind, integrationist vision of civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King. This course will critically examine these and other storylines of race – and their complex interactions with class and gender dynamics – to uncover the myths, ironies, and paradoxes of race in America.

The goals of the course are for you to (a) grasp the complex dynamics of racial stratification in America and the role of politics in contributing to these dynamics and (b) understand and critique the various proposals for reducing racial stratification. The study of race in America provides a window into the soul of America; by learning about race in America, we learn enduring lessons about the foundations, institutions, participation, and policy in American government. After completing this course, you will be able to understand the three storylines of race in America and be able to develop your own analyses about race in America.

Course Requirements and Grading*

The course requires a combination of reading, participation, and writing. Attendance and participation are crucial to the success of this class and hence will count for 15% of your course grade. In addition to class participation, you will complete two papers and a final exam.

Assignment	Week	Date	Grade
Paper 1	5	Tue Apr 29	25%
Paper 2	8	Tue May 20	30%
Paper 3	10	Fri Jun 06	30%
Attendance and participation*	Throughout course		15%

* I may also require additional writing and oral assignments during class meetings, and your grade will be contingent on completing these assignments.

Required Reading

Books: The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve at the library.

Dyson, Michael Eric. 2006. *Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster*. New York: Basic Civitas.

Issues in Race and Ethnicity. 2007. 3rd ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Klinkner, Philip A., and Rogers M. Smith. 1999. *The Unsteady March: The Rise and Decline of Racial Equality in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Reserve: Additional readings are available via [electronic reserve](#).

Current Events: In addition, you are required to read either (i) a national daily newspaper (such as [The New York Times](#) or [The Washington Post](#)) or (ii) a news magazine (such as [The Nation](#), [The New Republic](#), [The National Review](#), or [U.S. News & World Report](#)) since you will be tested on your knowledge of major current events, issues, and controversies. You can read these news sources either in print (by subscribing or reading at the library) or via the web.

Course/College Policies:

Academic integrity: I expect that you will perform your own work in all assignments and appropriately cite sources when you relying on other authors' arguments. Plagiarism of any kind will be dealt with severely – failure of the course is possible. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please ask me prior to turning in work.

Physical and learning disabilities: I will do everything I can to accommodate verified physical and learning disabilities. If you have a physical or learning disability that may impede your performance, please see me as soon as possible.

Late-work policy: I deduct 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. from a B to a B-) for every day late, including day one.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

(Come to class prepared to discuss readings assigned for date listed)

Week 01

Tue 04/01	Introduction				
	Tilove	Web	The restless search for America produces three		5 pgs
			Through immigration and exodus, a new melting pot		7 pgs
			The suburb perfected: America moves to the new Sun Belt		8 pgs
			Sedate heartland's disquiet: Half full or half empty?		8 pgs
Thu 04/03	CQ	Chapter 02	Race in America		23- 54
	Bain	Web	Walking while black		5 pgs

Week 02

Tue 04/08	The History of Racial Inequality: <i>The Unsteady March</i>				
	Klinkner	Introduction	The unsteady march		01- 09
		Chapter 01	“Bolted with the lock of a hundred keys” The end of slavery, 1619-1860		10- 46
Thu 04/10		Chapter 02	“Thenceforward, and forever free” The Civil War, 1860-1865		47- 71
		Chapter 03	“The Negro has got as much as he ought to have” Reconstruction and the second retreat, 1865-1908		72-105

Week 03

Tue 04/15		Chapter 04	“The color line” – Jim Crow America, 1908-1938		106-135
		Chapter 05	“Deutschland and Dixieland” Antifascism and the emergence of civil rights, 1938-1941		136-160
Thu 04/17		Chapter 06	“Double V: victory abroad, victory at home”: World War II		161-201

Week 04

Tue 04/22		Chapter 07	“Hearts and minds” The Cold War and civil rights, 1946-1954		202-241
		Chapter 08	“There comes a time” The civil rights revolution, 1954-1968		242-287
Thu 04/24		Chapter 09	“Benign neglect”? Post-civil rights America, 1968-1998		288-316
		Conclusion:	Shall we overcome?		317-352

Week 05

Tue 04/29	Affirmative Action				Paper 1 due
	CQ	Chapter 01	Affirmative Action		01- 22
Thu 05/01	Lipson	Web	Where's the justice?		26 pgs
	Leonhardt	Web	The new affirmative action		9 pgs

Week 06

Tue 05/06	School Desegregation			
	CQ	Chapter 04	School Desegregation	79-104
Thu 05/08	Race and Representation			
	CQ	Chapter 03	Redistricting Disputes	55- 78
	Denver Post	Web	Obama and the Southern Vote	9 pgs

Week 07

Tue 05/13	Latinos' Future			
	CQ	Chapter 10	Latinos' Future	223- 44
	Chang	Web	Why Latinos and Asian Americans Went for Hillary	2 pgs
Thu 05/15	Illegal Immigration			
	CQ	Chapter 09	Illegal Immigration	195-222

Week 08

Tue 05/20	Environmental (In)Justice			Paper 2 due
	CQ	Chapter 07	Environmental Justice	79-104
Thu 05/22	Hurricane Katrina			
	Dyson	Chapter 01	Unnatural disaster: race and poverty	01- 15
		Chapter 02	Does George W. Bush care about black people?	16- 33
		Chapter 03	The politics of disaster	34- 53

Week 09

Tue 05/27		Chapter 04	Hurricane and hesitation	54- 75
		Chapter 05	Levees and lies	76- 87
		Chapter 06	Follow the leader?	88-107
Thu 05/29		Chapter 07	Guns and butter (or FEMA-nizing disaster)	108-127
		Chapter 08	Capitalizing on disaster	128-139
		Chapter 09	Frames of reference: Class, caste, culture, and cameras	140-177

Week 10

Tue 06/03		Chapter 10	Supernatural disasters? Theodicy and prophetic faith	178-202
		Afterword	Transforming the Jericho road	203-212
Thu 06/05	Conclusion			
Fri 06/06				Paper 3 due at 5pm

* This calendar serves only as a guide. As needs are assessed, revisions will be made.