

THE POLITICS OF ETHNIC GROUPS

PS 307.001

CHMS 393.008

Spring Semester, 2009

TR 2 to 3:15 pm

Dane Smith Hall 334

Professor Christine Sierra

Office: Social Science Bldg. Rm. 2074

Office Hours: Tuesday, 11AM – 12 Noon and Wednesday, 10AM – 12 Noon

Phone: 277-1098 // csierra@unm.edu

Course Description

This course examines how race and ethnicity are woven into the fabric of American politics and society. The focus for the course involves the politics and experiences of specific groups: African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, and Asian Americans. Because of time constraints, the course will not provide an in-depth history and analysis of the politics of each of these specific groups. Rather, key aspects of these groups' experiences will be used to illustrate commonalities and differences among them. Their experiences will serve to illustrate theoretical concepts and themes generally applied to the study of race and ethnicity in American politics. Among the specific topics covered are ethnoracial/political identities, political mobilization (i.e. social movements and interest groups), political attitudes, partisanship, and voting. The particular role of race and ethnicity in contemporary elections, including the 2008 general election, will also be addressed. The final part of the course will include the topics of political representation and public policies of special concern to the populations studied.

Course Requirements and Expectations

The instructor holds high expectations for students enrolled in this upperdivision course. Students should expect a high level of exchange and discussion in class with the professor. Students are expected to complete the required reading during the week for which it is assigned. Student participation in class discussion is encouraged (I will call on you), whereas class attendance is strongly encouraged for adequate performance. Frequent absences from class may lower your overall course grade (see below).

Additional Considerations that pertain to this course:

- (a) Attend class on a regular basis. Avoid conflicts in your schedule, such as making other appointments when class meets.
- (b) Come to class ON TIME. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and can be easily avoided with adequate planning and time management.
- (c) Do not leave class early. Class will end at 3:15 pm and not before. So plan on staying and engaging in the course material with your fellow students and the instructor.
- (d) Turn off cell phones during class. They are annoying. Unless you have an emergency, you should not be taking or making calls or text messaging during class time.
- (e) Class time is for lecture material to be presented, notes taken, and students to engage in discussion of the class material. It is not a time to check your email or randomly surf the web, so refrain from doing so.
- (f) If you have questions concerning the assignments, please arrange to meet with me during my scheduled office hours or by appointment. Email is useful for arranging a meeting, but email is not good for more substantive communication and conversation.

Grading Procedures

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exams

1) One in-class exam, worth 30% of the course grade, to be given on Tuesday, March 3, during regularly scheduled class time. Exam #1 will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Please bring a blue book to class for your exam.

2) A final exam will be given on Tuesday, May 12, from 10AM to 12 Noon. It will be worth 40% of your course grade. This exam will emphasize all course material assigned since Exam #1. The final exam will consist of objective test questions (multiple choice and true/false) and perhaps some short answer questions. Blue Books will not be required for this exam. The final exam is scheduled for the date and time set by the university. Final exams will not be given prior to the scheduled date and time, so plan accordingly.

Student Papers

Students will submit a short paper on a topic assigned by the instructor. Topics will be drawn from assigned readings, recommended readings, special events, and subjects that complement the weekly course topics. Reports should be written as short research papers, 4-5 double-spaced pages, well documented and with properly formatted citations of all sources used. As time will allow given class size, students will be asked to deliver a short summary of their reports in class. Student papers will be due at various times throughout the semester and will count as 30% of the overall course grade. More detailed instructions will be forthcoming.

Class Participation

Class participation is an important component of a successful course. Regular participation (or nonparticipation) in class discussion -- quality as opposed to quantity -- will be noted. Special note will be given to students who show a grasp of the course material in class discussion. In the end, class participation will be considered, especially for borderline grade decisions. The instructor reserves the right to reward exceptional class performance when assigning the overall course grade.

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A+	97-100
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Special Needs Students

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Required Texts

Paula D. McClain and Joseph Stewart, Jr. "*Can We All Get Along?": Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics*. Fourth Edition. Westview Press, 2006.

F. Chris Garcia and Gabriel R. Sanchez. *Hispanics and the U.S. Political System: Moving into the Mainstream*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2008.

Hanes Walton, Jr. and Robert C. Smith. *American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom*. Fourth Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2008. Available in paperback as well as an E-Book.

David E. Wilkins. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. Second Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007. Also on RESERVE at Zimmerman.

These books are available at the UNM Bookstore. To save on cost, you might also check with Amazon.com or other booksellers. E-reserve readings are listed on the syllabus. To access e-reserves, use the code **lobo307**.

Throughout the semester, news articles and some additional reading may also be assigned and distributed, by email, e-reserve, or hard-copy. Please treat such reading as required for this course.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1	January 20 & 22 Introduction Race and Ethnicity in American Life Videodocumentary on racial politics McClain & Stewart, Ch. 1 Wilkins, Note on Terminology, Introduction <i>The U.S. Constitution</i> , in Walton & Smith, Appendix 2 Garcia & Sanchez, Introduction (pp. 1-5)
Week 2	January 27 & 29 The Political (Non)Incorporation of Racial & Ethnic Groups: Historical Background, Constitutional & Legal Questions The Construction of Race & Ethnicity McClain & Stewart, Timelines on African Americans and American Indian Peoples (pp. 230-241) Walton & Smith, Ch. 1 & 2 Wilkins, Timeline (pp. xxiii-xxxii), Ch. 2 & 4

Special Event: Dick Gregory, "From Civil Rights Activism to the Election of Obama: Has the Dream Been Fulfilled?" Saturday, January 31, 11:00 to 1:00 pm., SUB Ballroom A&B, Sponsored by UNM's Africana Studies Program. Student tickets: \$25.00, www.unmtickets.com.

Week 3 February 3 & 5
The Political (Non)Incorporation of Racial & Ethnic Groups, cont'd.
McClain & Stewart, Timelines on Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and Asian Americans (pp. 242-255)
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 1 & 2
The Stanford Historical Society, *Sandstone & Tile*, Essays on Japanese Americans and Their Internment Experiences: (ON E-Reserve)
a) Katherine Buchanan, "Barbed-Wire Neurosis"
b) Roxanne Nilan, "Japanese Student Association: At Home on Santa Ynez"
c) Gordan Chang, "From Stanford to Santa Anita, 1941-1942"

Week 4 February 10 & 12
Social Movement Activism: Then and Now
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 2 (pp. 47-57).
Walton & Smith, Ch. 6 (pp. 77-79, 85), Ch. 7 (all), Ch. 8 (pp. 123-131)
Wilkins, Ch. 8 (pp. 224-234)
Garcia & Sanchez, review Ch. 2, pp. 49-53.

Recommended: *A Cleansing Fire: The Rise of the Chicano Movement and the Church of the Epiphany*, compiled and edited by Rocio Zamora. Published by Church of the Epiphany, Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles, 2007. (on e-reserve)

Special Event: Dr. Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Vice-President of the American Political Science Association and Professor, University of North Texas, "Latinos in Presidential Politics," Friday, February 13, 4:00 pm, The National Hispanic Cultural Center. 1701 4th Street S.W., Albuquerque. Lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies & Albuquerque International Association. *Students with ID are free after they register at info@centerforinternationalstudies.net. For more information please visit www.centerforinternationalstudies.net.*

Week 5 February 17 & 19
Political Mobilization: From SMOs to Interest Groups
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 3 (pp. 118-123)
Wilkins, Ch. 5, Ch. 8 (pp. 211-224), Ch. 9
Videodocumentary

Week 6 February 24 & 26
Political Mobilization: From SMOs to Interest Groups
Walton & Smith, Ch. 8 (pp. 115-123), Ch. 6 (pp. 79-87)
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 4 & 7
NHLA, "2008 Hispanic Policy Agenda" (on e-reserve)

NOTE: Friday, February 27th, is the last day to drop without a grade.

Week 7 March 3
Exam #1

March 5
A Demographic Portrait of Ethnoracial America
Group Status and Geo-Politics
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 2 (31-46)
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 3
Wilkins, Ch. 1, Ch. 6 (pp. 163-168, esp. tables)

Week 8 March 10 & 12
Ethnoracial Identities (group specific and pan-ethnic)
Political Socialization, Political Attitudes
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 3 (pp. 67-75)
Walton & Smith, Ch. 3, 4, 5
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 5
Wilkins, Ch. 2 (review)

Special Event: Dr. Maribel Alvarez, Southwest Center, University of Arizona, “Latino Arts & Culture: Mapping a Social Movement,” Friday, March 13, 4:00 pm, The National Hispanic Cultural Center. 1701 4th Street S.W., Albuquerque. Lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies & Albuquerque International Association. *Students with ID are free after they register at info@centerforinternationalstudies.net. For more information please visit www.centerforinternationalstudies.net.*

Week 9: March 17 & 19
Spring Break/No Class

Week 10 March 24 & 26
Ideology & Parties
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 3 (75-91)
Walton & Smith, Ch. 9
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 8
Democratic Party Platform 2008 (e-reserve)
Republican Party Platform 2008 (e-reserve)

Week 11 March 31 & April 2
Electoral Politics: Voting, Campaigns, Elections
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 2 (pp. 57-63), Ch. 3 (pp. 92-118)
Walton & Smith, Ch. 10
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 6
Wilkins, Ch. 7

Recommended: Eric Gonzalez Juenke and Anna Sampaio, “Deracialization and Latino Politics: The Case of the Salazar Brothers in Colorado,” *Political Research Quarterly* (on-line edition), Vol. XX, No. 10 (December 2008). Also see *Voting and Registration in November, 2004*. Both documents on E-Reserve.

Week 12: April 7 & 9
2008 Election: Group Voting Patterns and Electoral Outcomes
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 4 (pp. 127-157, 174-175)
Walton & Smith, Ch. 12
Exit Poll Data 2004, 2008 (e-reserve)

Special Event: Rudy M. Beserra, Vice President, Latin Affairs, Coca-Cola Company, “Growing Latino Businesses,” Saturday, April 11, 4:00 pm, The National Hispanic Cultural Center. 1701 4th Street S.W., Albuquerque. Lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies & Albuquerque International Association. *Students with ID are free after they register at info@centerforinternationalstudies.net. For more information please visit www.centerforinternationalstudies.net.*

- Week 13 April 14 & 16
VRA & Political Representation
Walton & Smith, Ch. 11
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 9, 10, 11
Wilkins, Ch. 3
- Week 14 April 21 & 23
Representation, Coalitions, Public Policies
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 4 (pp. 158-177), Ch. 5
Walton & Smith, Ch. 13, 14
- Week 15: April 28 & 30
Group Interests and Public Policies
Wilkins, Ch. 6 (all), Ch. 10
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 12
Walton & Smith, Ch. 15, 16
- Week 16: May 5 & 7
Ethnoracial Politics in the New Millennium
McClain & Stewart, Ch. 6
Garcia & Sanchez, Ch. 13

Special Event: Dr. Manuel Garcia y Griego, Director, Southwest Hispanic Research Institute, UNM, “New Mexico: Hispanos y Mexicanos: 21st Century Immigration and the Descendants of 17th Century Indo-Hispanos,” Friday, May 8, 4:00 pm, The National Hispanic Cultural Center. 1701 4th Street S.W., Albuquerque. Lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies & Albuquerque International Association. *Students with ID are free after they register at info@centerforinternationalstudies.net. For more information please visit www.centerforinternationalstudies.net.*

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12
10 AM to 12 Noon