

# Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics

Autumn 2016, Tuesdays 10:30am-1:20pm  
160-317

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*“That the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of the history of the whole world”*

~President John Adams

This course explores the role that racial and ethnic politics play in American political campaigns and elections. This will include readings and videos that explore the power of ethnoracial voting blocs (e.g. the Black vote and the Latino vote), as well as the challenges and advantages of candidates that are people of color. We will discuss how changing demographics are changing the political landscape, and how candidates and political parties are responding to those changes. This will include, of course, significant attention to ongoing battles at the national (e.g. Trump v. Clinton), state (e.g. Kamala Harris v. Loretta Sanchez), and local levels, most often in California but in other geographic areas as well. We will also explore historic candidacies and elections (e.g. Jesse Jackson) and political parties (e.g. La Raza Unida party) that help put the 2016 races into perspective.

## Readings

There are 5 required books for this course (all reasonably priced, and all very worth your time). These will be supplemented by shorter readings posted online as pdf files. Additional required short readings (articles and blog posts) related to the current election cycle will also be posted online.

1. Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson. *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-out-the-Vote Campaigns* (2012, Yale University Press)
2. Steve Phillips. *Brown is the New White* (2016, The New Press)
3. Tali Mendelberg. *The Race Card* (2001, Princeton University Press)
4. Evelyn M. Simien. *Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics* (2015, Oxford University Press)
5. Andra Gillespie, ed., *Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership* (2010, Routledge)

## Movies

If you miss class, please watch the movies on your own so that you can complete the movie response assignments (Stanford library call numbers are listed below for each movie, or find them streaming online).

## Requirements

Students are expected to complete the readings in advance of each relevant class session, and to attend class regularly. Grades will be based on written responses to assigned readings and movies, due every two weeks (five papers @ 15 points each = 75 points), and a final exam (25 points). The final exam will include material from the readings, the movies, and class discussions.

## Detailed Daily Schedule

### 1. September 27 – Race and Ethnicity

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yen Le Espiritu, “Ethnicity and Panethnicity” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard Winant, “Contesting the Meaning of Race in the Post-Civil Rights Period” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	

### 2. October 4 – Latino Electoral Politics

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Geron and Melissa R. Michelson, “Latino Partisanship, Political Activity, and Vote Choice” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	Paper #1 due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luis Fraga, John A. García, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Gary M. Segura, <i>Latinos in the New Millennium</i>, chapters 9 (“Voter Registration, Turnout, and Choice”) and 10 (“Evolving Patterns and Preferences in Latino Partisanship”)(<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Barreto, Loren Collingwood and Sylvia Manzano, “Measuring Latino Political Influence in National Elections” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOVIE #1: <i>Latinos '08</i> (ZDVD 18601, 57 minutes)</li> </ul>	

### 3. October 11 – Black Electoral Politics (Skype with Evelyn)

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn M. Simien, <i>Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics</i> (2015)</li> </ul>	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ron Walters, “Barack Obama and the Politics of Blackness” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOVIE #2: <i>Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed</i> (ZDVD 11994, 77 minutes)</li> </ul>	

### 4. October 18 – Black Electoral Politics, cont. (Skype with Andra)

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andra Gillespie, ed., <i>Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership</i> (2010)</li> </ul>	Paper #2 due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOVIE #3: <i>Street Fight</i> (ZDVD 11569, 82 minutes)</li> </ul>	

### 5. October 25 – The Asian American Electorate (Skype with Taeku)

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APIA Vote, “Inclusion not Exclusion” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Aoki, “The Future of Asian American Politics” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janelle Wong, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Taeku Lee and Jane June, <i>Asian American Political Participation</i>, chapter 1 (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOVIE #4: <i>Searching for Asian America, the Governor</i> (ZVC 18354, 29 minutes)</li> </ul>	

**6. November 1 – Brown is the New White** (guest: Steve)

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Philips, <i>Brown is the New White</i> (2016)</li> </ul>	Paper #3 due

**7. November 8 (Election Day) – Mobilizing the New American Electorate**

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson, <i>Mobilizing Inclusion</i> (2012)</li> </ul>	no

**8. November 15 – Racism and Elections**

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tali Mendelberg, <i>The Race Card</i> (2001)</li> </ul>	Paper #4 due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cindy D. Kam and Donald R. Kinder, “Ethnocentrism as a Short-Term Force in the 2008 American Presidential Election” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bethany L. Albertson, “Dog-Whistle Politics: Multivocal Communication and Religious Appeals” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	

**November 22 – no class, Thanksgiving Week**

**9. November 29 – Local Electoral Power**

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raphael Sonenshein and Susan Pinkus, “Latino Incorporation Reaches the Urban Summit: How Antonio Villaraigosa Won the 2005 Los Angeles Mayor’s Race” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rene Rocha, “Black-Brown Coalitions in Local School Board Elections” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carole Jean Uhlener and Danvy Le. “The role of coethnic political mobilization in electoral incorporation: Evidence from Orange County, California” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kim Geron, “Asian American Politics in Oakland: the Rise of Mayor Jean Quan” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOVIE #5: <i>The New Los Angeles</i>, (ZDVD 12394, 55 minutes)</li> </ul>	

**10. December 6 – What’s on the Horizon?**

<i>Readings/Movie</i>	<i>Paper Due?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shaun Bowler and Gary Segura, <i>The Future is Ours: Minority Politics, Political Behavior, and the Multiracial Era of American Politics</i>, chapter 2 (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	Paper #5 due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valeria Sinclair-Chapman and Melanye Price “Black Politics, the 2008 Election, and the (Im)Possibility of Race Transcendence” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa García Bedolla and Kerry L. Haynie. “The Obama coalition and the future of American politics” (<i>pdf</i>)</li> </ul>	