

RACIAL AND ETHNIC POLITICS

Fall 2011

Location: UHall 1403

4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Chicana/o Studies 337.01

Political Science 337.01

Asian Pacific American Studies 398.01

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Inclusion and participation based on equality are the fundamental requirements of social justice as these are understood in the Catholic tradition.”

David Hollenbach, S.J. in *The Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Social Justice, and the University*.

The objective of this course is to gain an understanding of racial and ethnic politics in contemporary U.S. society. This will be accomplished by examining the U.S. political structure and racial and ethnic communities in comparative perspective. There will also be an emphasis on theoretical models, historical comparisons, and numerous local case studies. There will be a special emphasis on California, the various communities in Los Angeles County, and current events. The best way to understand racial and ethnic politics is by doing direct research on the topic. This class will require the substantial expansion of students' skills in using political science quantitative methodology. Students will conduct a major research project that will require students to locate and use relevant scholarly sources, collect and analyze relevant data, and draft and revise a 20 page final research paper. The project is explained in greater detail in the project guide.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Percent of Grade	Due Date
Midterm Exam	30%	October 18th
Research Project	30%	November 29th
Presentation of Research Project	5%	December 6th
Final Exam	25%	December 13th
Preparation and Participation	10%	All Sessions

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with special needs who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic accommodations should contact the Disability Support Services Office (2nd floor of Daum Hall, or 310-338-2624) as early in the semester as possible. All information and documentation will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

To retrieve assignments, guides, and readings for the course, go to the Leavey Center's website: www.lmu.edu/lcsla and click on "Classes" (located on the left column). Then click to login and enter your LMU username and password. You will find the course "Racial and Ethnic Politics."

REQUIRED TEXTS: *You will read the following two books cover-to-cover and they will be essential for both the midterm and final exams. Available at the LMU Bookstore.*

Browning, Rufus P., Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb. 2003. *Racial Politics in American Cities*. New York, NY: Longman Press.

Schmidt, Ronald Sr., Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh, Andrew L. Aoki, Rodney E. Hero, and Ronald Schmidt. 2009. *Newcomers, Outsiders, and Insiders: Immigrants and American Racial Politics in the Early Twenty-first Century*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

OPTIONAL TEXT: *This book is an excellent example of the application of minority-opportunity districts and minority incorporation. This book was ordered through the LMU Bookstore.*

Behr, Joshua G. 2004. *Race, Ethnicity, and the Politics of City Redistricting: Minority-Opportunity Districts and the Election of Hispanics and Blacks to City Councils*. New York, NY: State University of New York Press.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS: *You must purchase only one of the four books listed below. You will be expected to read the book in its entirety and answer questions on the midterm. The books were not ordered through the bookstore.*

Garcia, F. Chris, and Gabriel R. Sanchez. 2008. *Hispanics and the U.S. Political Systems*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Lein, Pei-Te, M. Margaret Conway, and Janelle Wong. 2004. *The Politics of Asian Americans - Diversity and Community*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Walton, Jr., Hanes, and Robert C. Smith. 2000. *American Politics and the African American Quest for Universal Freedom*. New York, NY: Addison-Wesley Longman, Inc.

Wilkins, David E. 2007. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

SPECIAL RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MEDIA: *You will read the first and last chapter of each of these two books. Both professors Klinkner and Streb are former LMU professors. They partially wrote these books while at LMU.*

Klinkner, Philip A., and Rogers M. Smith. 1999. *The Unsteady March*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Streb, Matthew J. 2002. *The New Electoral Politics of Race*. Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press.

Romano, C. & O'Meara, D. (Producers). (2010). *Gerrymandering: a New Documentary Film* [Documentary]. United States: Green Film Company.

**** All nine (9) books listed above have been put on reserve under the list name CHST 337.01 ****

SCHEDULE: READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

TOPIC I *Mobilization: “To marshal, bring together, prepare for action”¹*

August 30: LeMay: Ch. 1; Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Part 1; Lein, Pei-Te, et al. (2004). Introduction. In *The Politics of Asian Americans-Diversity and Community*; Hero, Ch. 1. Begin reading your “recommended text” of choice.

September 6: Schmidt, et al, Ch. 1; Klinkner, Introduction: The Unsteady March; Benjamin: “The American Internal Colonial Environment;” Fraga, Luis R., et al. (2006). “Su Casa Es Nuestra Casa: Latino Politics Research and the Development of American Political Science.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 100, No. 4.

September 13: Schmidt, et al, Ch. 2; Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Ch. 13; Hero, Ch. 11; **Lab on collecting city and election data.**
Optional: Census Presentation will discuss how to use the Census data in more detail. September 15, UHall 4110 during convo hour.

September 20: Schmidt, et al, Ch 3; Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Ch. 12; Streb; Arrington: “Redistricting in the U.S.”; Seabrook: “The Limits of Partisan Gerrymandering.” **Part 1 due.**

TOPIC II *Incorporation: “To include or be included as a part or member of a united whole”²*

September 27: Schmidt, et al. Ch. 4; Streb, Ch. 10; Rodriguez, O., Ch. 2; Bullock, C.S. Ch. 2 & Ch. 4; Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. (2010). *A Citizens Guide to Redistricting*. (2010 ed). New York, NY: Levitt, J. **Part 2 due. Lab on redistricting data.**

October 4: Behr, J.G., Ch. 7; Cain, B.E., Ch. 2 & 3.

October 11: Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Ch. 2 & 3; Klinkner, Conclusion Part 1: Shall We Overcome?. **Part 3 due.**

October 18: **MIDTERM**

Question: “Which model, discussed in class, best explains the political environment that racial and ethnic groups face in gaining power in Contemporary America?” **or** “Which model best explains the inclusion of previously excluded groups?”

October 25: Schmidt, et al, Ch. 5 & 6; Browning, Marshall & Tabb, Ch. 4 & 5.

TOPIC III *Responsiveness: “Responding especially readily and sympathetically to appeals, efforts, and influences”³*

November 1: Browning, Marshall & Tabb, Ch. 6 & Ch. 7.

November 8: Schmidt, et al, Ch. 7; Browning, Marshall & Tabb, Ch. 8 & 9. **Part 4 due.**

November 15: Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Ch. 10.

November 22: Browning, Marshall & Tabb: Ch. 11.

November 29: **Part 5: 20 page final paper due.**

December 6: **TEAM PRESENTATIONS ON COLLECTED DATA**

December 13: **FINAL EXAM** – Browning, Marshall & Tabb; Ch. 1-13 (ALL).

Question: “Previously excluded groups like African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans and others have made great strides in gaining power. Assess what impact these groups and their officeholders have had in shaping policy. You can address your answer by focusing on one or more groups at the local, state, or national level, and within a selected policy arena.”

Or “What difference has Obama made?”

¹ Mobilization. (n.d). In Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mobilization>.

² Incorporation. (n.d). In Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/incorporation>.

³ Responsive. (n.d). In Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/responsive>.