

GVPT 479D
Seminar in American Politics: Minority Politics
Fall 2009 TTH 11:00am-12:15pm

Professor: Stella Rouse
Office: 1145 Tydings Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-11:00am
or by appointment
Tel: 301-405-4194
E-Mail: srouse@gvpt.umd.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of how minority groups operate within the U.S. political system. The substantive focus of the course will be on how minorities have historically been represented, on different concepts of representation, on minority group commonalities and differences, and on policy issues that are of particular importance to minorities. Specifically, we will focus on the three largest minority groups in the country- Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans, with a brief examination of American Indians. Some of the detailed topics we will cover include, but are not limited to: basic theories and concepts applied to the study of minority/identity politics, levels of political incorporation among minority groups, historical obstacles to equal representation, the relationship between the political majority and minority groups, the economic and political resources of minorities, immigration and population trends, and the recent developments that are changing the landscape of identity politics.

Course Expectations

In line with the expectations of an upper division seminar course, students will be assigned a fair amount of reading and will be expected to come to class prepared for a lively discussion on the weekly topics. Irregular attendance and non-completion of the reading assignments will be reflected in the student's overall class performance. Further, students are expected to exhibit the ability to be analytical, to grasp concepts and theories, and to convey an understanding of the material both during class discussions and through written assignments (papers and exams).

Students are also expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to learning. Our classroom will be a place where people can feel comfortable expressing diverse opinions without fear of ridicule or intimidation. It is expected that students will remain respectful of others, regardless of whether or not they share similar opinions and beliefs.

Required Readings

1. *New Race Politics in America*. 2008. Jane Junn and Kerry L. Haynie, eds. Cambridge University Press, ISBN#9780521670142
2. **Course Reserves** (various chapters from other books). Available through Blackboard
3. **Journal Articles**- provided through Blackboard or through the library's electronic journal system.

Grading Procedures

Course grades will be comprised of the following:

1. Mid Term Exam = 20% of final grade
2. Final Exam = 30% of final grade
3. One analytical paper = 30% of final grade
4. Two-page reaction papers = 10% of final grade
5. Class attendance/participation and possible brief paper presentation= 10% of final grade

* **Exams:** Two exams comprise 50% of your final grade. Exams will consist entirely of essay questions. Final exam is non-cumulative.

* **Analytical Paper:** Research paper will be about 12 pages, double spaced, and will be due on the final day of class. Information about the paper will be provided at a later date.

* **Class Participation:** Class Participation is measured by attendance and by willingness to participate in class discussions. Attending class all the time but never participating – or – participating during irregular attendance will not give you an “A” for class participation

* **Reaction papers:** Due on the day the corresponding readings are assigned (unless otherwise noted). I will drop the lowest two reaction paper grades. There will be no make-up reaction papers allowed. Papers submitted via e-mail will not be accepted unless otherwise approved by the instructor.

*All readings, lectures, and class discussions are fair game on the exams

Grades for this class are computed on the university standard scale:

A	100 to 90
B	89 to 80
C	79 to 70
D	69 to 60
F	59 or below

Make-ups:

I will only consider exam make-ups under specific and compelling documented emergencies (serious illness, accident, family crises, etc.) or university-authorized absences. Students who will be **absent due to religious holidays** must notify the instructor, in writing, prior to the end of the second week of the semester. Make-up exams will differ from regular exams.

Assignments are expected to be completed by the assigned dates. A late assignment may only be turned in with prior approval of the instructor and only for specific and compelling circumstances.

Academic Honesty:

The work done in this course is expected to be solely the effort of each individual student. Plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of others as one's own or copying the work of another without giving proper credit) and cheating will not be tolerated. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the course (regardless of prior class achievement) and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the Student Honor Council's "Code of Academic Integrity," available at: <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>.

Important Note About Course Syllabus and Class Schedule:

The syllabus is designed as a tentative calendar for how the class will be structured. It is not meant as a strict schedule. It is very likely that throughout the semester the class schedule will be revised at the discretion of the instructor. It is your responsibility to attend class and to be informed of any revisions to the syllabus.

Tentative Course Schedule and Important Dates:**WEEK 1: (Sept. 1 & 3)****The Historical Role of Minorities, Incorporation, and the Changing Political Landscape- An Overview**

- Tue. September 1 - Course Overview
 Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 1
 McClain and Stewart. "America's Dilemmas" in
Can't We All Get Along (Course Reserves-Blackboard)
- Thu. September 3 - No Class (class cancelled by instructor)

WEEK 2: (Sept. 8 & 10)**The Historical Role of Minorities, Incorporation, and the Changing Political Landscape- An Overview (cont.)****An Introduction to the Meaning of Representation**

Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Women Represent Women and Blacks Represent Blacks? A Contingent 'Yes'" *Journal of Politics* Vol 61 (3)
(Blackboard)

Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, *Representation (Course Reserves-Blackboard)*

Dovi, Suzanne. 2002. "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino?" *American Political Science Review* Vol 96 (4): 729-743.
(Blackboard)

Hero, Rodney and Caroline Tolbert. 1995. "Latinos and Substantive Representation in the U.S. House of Representatives: Direct, Indirect, or Nonexistent?" *American Journal of Political Science* Vol 39 (3): 640-653
(Blackboard)

**Reaction paper due on Thursday, September 10th (Dovi; Hero and Tolbert articles)*

WEEK 3: (Sept. 15 & 17)**Assimilation, Acculturation, and Minority Identification
(September 14 – Last Day to drop/add courses)**

Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 2

Gordon, Milton M. 1961. "Assimilation in America: Theory and Reality." *Daedalus* 90 (2)
(Course Reserves-Blackboard)

Parenti, Michael. 1967. "Ethnic Politics and the Persistence of Ethnic Identification." *American Political Science Review* Vol 61 (3)
(Blackboard)

WEEK 4: (Sept. 22 & 24)

Minority Political Influence and Participation

Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 3

McClain and Stewart "America's Racial Minorities in the Contemporary Political System" in *Can't We All Get Along* (Course Reserves-Blackboard)

Hero, Rodney. *Latinos and the U.S. Political System: Two-Tiered Pluralism*, chapters 1 & 2 (Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Engstrom, Richard L. 1994. "The Voting Rights Act: Disenfranchisement, Dilution, and Alternative Elections Systems." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 27: 685-688 (Blackboard)

**Reaction paper due Thursday, Sept 24th (Rodney Hero chapters)*

WEEK 5: (Sep. 29 & Oct. 1)

Voting Behavior, Attitudes, and Participation Among African Americans

Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 7

Griffin, John and Patrick Flavin. 2007. "Racial Differences in Information, Expectations, and Accountability." *Journal of Politics* 69 (1): 220-36 (Blackboard)

Gay, Claudine. 2004. "Putting Race in Context: Identifying the Environmental Determinants of Black Racial Attitudes." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4): 547-562 (Blackboard)

WEEK 6: (Oct. 6 & 8)

Voting Behavior. Attitudes, and Participation Among Latinos

R. Michael Alvarez and Lisa Garcia Bedolla. 2003. "The Foundations of Voter Participation: Evidence from the 2000 Election." *Journal of Politics* 65: 31-49 (Blackboard)

Stokes, Atiya K. 2003. "Latino Group Consciousness and Political Participation." *American Politics Research* 31: 361-378. (Blackboard)

Barreto, Matt A. 2007. "Si Se Puede! Latino Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters." *American Political Science Review* 101: 425-441 (Blackboard)

**Reaction paper due Thursday Oct. 8th (all articles)*

WEEK 7:

Tue. **Oct. 13 -** Catch up/Review
 Thu. **Oct. 15-** **Exam #1**

WEEK 8: (Oct. 20 & 22)

The Political Mobilization of Minority Groups

Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 5

Shapiro, Robert Y. "Introduction: Awaited Voices: Latinos and U.S. Elections, in **Muted Voices: Latinos and the 2000 Elections**
(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Taylor, Paul and Richard Fry. "Hispanics and the 2008 Election: A Swing Vote? **Pew Hispanic Center** (available at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/83.pdf>)

Hill, Kim Quaile and Jan E. Leighley. 1999. "Racial Diversity, Voter Turnout and Mobilizing Institutions in the United States." **American Politics Research Vol. 27, No 3, pp275-295.**
(Blackboard)

**Reaction paper due Thursday, Oct. 22nd (Taylor and Fry; Hill and Leighley articles)*

WEEK 9: (Oct. 27 & 29)

Asian-Americans: The "Model Minority?"

Wong, J.S., P. Lien, and M.M. Conway. 2005. "Group Based Resources and Political Participation among Asian Americans." **American Politics Research 33 (4): 545-576**
(Blackboard)

Junn, Jane and Natalie Masouka. 2008. "Asian American Identity: Shared Racial Status and Political Context." **Perspectives on Politics 6 (4): 729-740.**
(Blackboard)

Lien, P., Conway, M. M., Wong, J. S. 2003. "The Contours and Sources Of Ethnic Identity Choices Among Asian Americans." **Social Science Quarterly 84 (2): 461-481.**
(Blackboard)

Lien, P., Collet, C., Wong, J. S., Ramakrishnan, K. 2001. "Asian Pacific American Public Opinion and Political Participation." **P.S.: Political Science & Politics 34 (3): 625-630.**
(Blackboard)

WEEK 10: (Nov. 3 & 5)

The "Fourth" Minority; Interethnic Conflict and Minority Coalitions

Katel, Peter. 2009. "American Indians" in *Issues in Race and Ethnicity*, CQ Press

(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street (movie)

WEEK 11: (Nov. 10 & 12)

Interethnic Conflict and Minority Coalitions (cont.)

Junn and Haynie eds., Chapter 8

Kaufmann, Karen. 2003. "Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions." *Political Research Quarterly* 56 (2): 199-210.

(Blackboard)

Kaufmann, Karen. 2004. "Racial Conflict and Retrospective Voting." in *The Urban Voter*

(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Pew Research Center (January 31, 2008). "Do Blacks and Hispanics Get Along?" **available at:**

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/713/blacks-hispanics>

**Reaction paper due Tuesday, November 10th (movie)*

WEEK 12: (Nov. 17 & 19)

Growing Influence of Latinos; Immigration and Immigration Policy in the U.S.

Rocha, Rene R. and Rodolfo Espino. 2008. "Racial Threat, Residential Segregation, and Policy Attitudes of Anglos." *Political Research Quarterly* 20 (10).

(Blackboard)

Newton, Lina. "Problem Mexicans: Race, Nationalism, and Their Limits in Contemporary Immigration Policy" (chapter 5) in *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant*

(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Newton, Lina. "Power and Image in Immigration Policy-Making" (conclusion + epilogue) in *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant*

(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

WEEK 13: (Nov. 24 & 26)

Growing Influence of Latinos; Immigration and Immigration Policy in the U.S. (cont.)

(November 26th—Thanksgiving Holiday)

WEEK 14: (Dec. 1 & 3)

Minority Groups and American Identity: The New Debate

Huntington, Samuel Chapters 1 & 2 in *Who Are We?*

(Course Reserves- Blackboard)

Huntington, Samuel. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge" *Foreign Policy* Mar/April, 141: 30-45

(Blackboard)

White, Ismail K., et al., 2007. "Feeling the Pain of My People: Hurricane Katrina, Racial Inequality, and the Psyche of Black America." **Journal of Black Studies** 37 (4): 523-538 (Blackboard)

Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends Report. 2008. "Americans Say They Like Diverse Communities; Elections, Census Trends Suggest Otherwise"
available at: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/719/diverse-political-communities>

**Reaction paper due Thursday, December 3 (Huntington readings)*

Week 15:

Tue. Dec. 8 - Catch up
Research/Analytical Paper Due

Thur. Dec. 10 - Exam Review

FINAL EXAM- **Monday, December 14th**
8:00 am – 10:00 am