

**Seminar in American Politics:  
Minority Politics  
TTH 11:00am-12:15pm**

Professor: Stella Rouse  
Office: 1145 Tydings Hall  
Office Hours: Monday 10-12; Wednesday 1-3  
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**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. 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 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 completion of the reading assignments will be reflected in the student's overall class performance.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to learning. Therefore, 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.

**Grading Procedures**

Course grades will be comprised of the following:

1. Two exams (short answer and essay), each worth 30% of the final grade
2. One analytical paper (8-12 pages, double spaced), worth 30% of the final grade  
Paper topics and guidelines will be distributed in class
3. Class participation, reading assignments (2 page reaction papers of selected readings), and brief paper presentation-- worth 10% of final grade

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

\*The final exam (second exam) is non-cumulative

\*Reaction papers are to be turned in on the day the corresponding readings are assigned (unless otherwise noted)

### **Make-ups:**

I will only consider exam make-ups under specific and compelling documented emergencies (serious illness, accident, family crises, etc.).

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>.

### **Tentative Course Schedule and Important Dates:**

#### Week 1:

#### **The Historical Role of Minorities, Incorporation, and the Changing Political Landscape- An Overview**

- Tue. September 2 - Course Overview/No Readings  
 Thu. September 4 - Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 1-2  
 McClain and Stewart. "America's Dilemmas" in  
*Can't We All Get Along (Course Packet)*

#### Week 2:

#### **An Introduction to the Meaning of Representation**

- Tue. September 9 - Hutchings, Vincent L. and Nicholas Valentino. 2004. "The Centrality of Race in American Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol 7, Issue 1, p 383-408.  
 Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, *Representation (Course Packet)*
- Thu. September 11 - Dovi, Suzanne. 2002. "Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino?" *American Political Science Review* Vol 96, No 4 p 729-743.  
 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, Issue 3, p 640-653  
 \*Reaction paper due\*

#### Week 3:

#### **Assimilation, Acculturation, and Minority Identification**

- Mon. September 15 - Final date for dropping courses without receiving a "w"  
 Tue. September 16 - Catch up date  
 Thu. September 18 - Gordon, Milton M. 1961. "Assimilation in America: Theory and Reality." *Daedalus* Vol 90, No 2  
 Parenti, Michael. 1967. "Ethnic Politics and the Persistence of Ethnic Identification." *American Political Science Review* Vol 61, No 3

Week 4:**Obstacles to Minority Political Influence and Participation**

- Tue. September 23 - Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 3  
Engstrom, Richard L. 1994. "The Voting Rights Act: Disenfranchisement, Dilution, and Alternative Elections Systems." **PS: Political Science and Politics 27: 685-688**  
Parker, Frank R. 1995. "A Constitutional Setback for Minority Representation." **PS: Political Science and Politics 28: 47-50**
- Thu. September 25 - Hero, Rodney. *Latinos and the U.S. Political System: Two-Tiered Pluralism*, chapters 1 & 2 (**Course Packet**)  
\*Reaction paper due\*

Week 5:**Voting Behavior, Attitudes, and Participation Among African Americans**

- Tue. September 30 - Junn and Haynie, eds., Chapter 7
- Thu. October 2 - Griffin, John and Patrick Flavin. 2007. "Racial Differences in Information, Expectations, and Accountability." **Journal of Politics 69:1 p 220-36**  
Gay, Claudine. 2004. "Putting Race in Context: Identifying the Environmental Determinants of Black Racial Attitudes." **American Political Science Review 98:4 p 547-562**

Week 6:**Voting Behavior, Attitudes, and Participation Among Latinos**

- Tue. October 7 - R. Michael Alvarez and Lisa Garcia Bedolla. 2003. "The Foundations of Voter Participation: Evidence from the 2000 Election." **Journal of Politics 65: 31-49**  
Stokes, Atiya K. 2003. "Latino Group Consciousness and Political Participation." **American Politics Research 31: 361-378.**
- Thu. October 9 - Barreto, Matt A. 2007. "Si Se Puede! Latino Candidates and the Mobilization of Latino Voters." **American Political Science Review 101: 425-441**  
\*Reaction paper due\*

Week 7:

- Tue. October 14 - Catch up/Review
- Thu. October 16 - **Exam #1**

Week 8**The Political Mobilization of Minority Groups**

- Tues. October 21 - 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 Packet)**  
**Paper Topic disbursed**
- Thu. October 23 - 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>)**  
Barone, Michael. 2008. "The Race Factor in the 2008 Presidential Election." **(available at: <http://www.usnews.com/blogs/barone/2008/6/16/the-race-factor-in-the-2008-presidential-election.html>)**  
\*Reaction paper due\*

Week 9:**Asian-Americans: The “Model Minority?”**

- Tue. October 28 - Wong, J.S., P. Lien, and M.M. Conway. 2005. “The Role of Group Based Resources in the Political Participation of Asian Americans”  
**American Politics Research 545-576**
- Thu. October 30 - Lien, P., Conway, M. M., Wong, J. S. 2003. “The Contours and Sources Of Ethnic Identity Choices Among Asian Americans.”  
**Social Science Quarterly. Vol. 84 Issue. 2, pp 461-481.**  
Lien, P., Collet, C., Wong, J. S., Ramakrishnan, K. 2001. “Asian Pacific American Public Opinion and Political Participation.” **P.S.: Political Science & Politics Vol. 34 Issue. 3, p 625-630.**

Week 10:**Interethnic Conflict and Minority Coalitions**

- Tue. November 4 - ELECTION DAY  
Junn and Haynie eds., Chapter 8  
Kaufmann, Karen. “Racial Conflict and Retrospective Voting *in The Urban Voter (Course Packet)*”
- Thu. November 6 - Pew Research Center (January 31, 2008). “Do Blacks and Hispanics Get Along?” **available at:**  
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/713/blacks-hispanics>  
Melissa Michaleson “Cracks in the Rainbow”

Week 11:**The Growing Influence of Latinos**

- Mon. November 10 - Final date to drop course
- Tue. November 11 - “Minorities Expected to be Majority” article  
“Hispanics Becoming Electoral Force” article
- Thu. November 13 - Junn and Haynie eds., Chapter 7  
“Mexican Migrant’s Growing Influence” article  
\*Reaction paper due\*

Week 12:**Immigration and Immigration Policy in the U.S.**

- Tue. November 18 - “Immigration Reform Still a Band-Aid” article  
“Recession May be Driving Off Illegals” article  
“Role of Media in Reporting Illegal Immigration” article
- Thu. November 20 - A Day Without a Mexican (movie)

Week 13:**Immigration (continued)**

- Tue. November 25 - movie (conclusion)
- Thu. November 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14:**Minority Groups and American Identity: The New Debate**

- Tue. December 2 - Huntington, Samuel Chapters 1 & 2 *in Who Are We?*  
**(Course Packet)**
- Thu. December 4 - catch up  
\*Reaction paper due\*

Week 15:**Minority Groups and American Identity: The New Debate (continued)**

Tue. December 9 - Huntington, Samuel. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge"

**Foreign Policy Mar/April, Issue 141, p 30-45**

Thu. December 11 - 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**

Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends Report. 2007.

"Optimism About Black Progress Declines-Blacks See Growing Values

Gap Between Poor and Middle Class."

**available at:**

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/700/black-public-opinion>

**\*Research Paper Due\***

Exam Review

**FINAL EXAM-**

**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am – 10:00 am**