RACE AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES

This course is designed to introduce the core concepts and debates in the field of racial and ethnic politics. Research on race and politics can be found across all areas of political science. It is also a sub discipline where scholars rely on research conducted in other fields. Hence, the schedule of readings will reflect the broad, interdisciplinary nature of the sub field. This graduate seminar will cover three themes. The first is the issue of race and how it has been conceptualized in the social science literature. The Second is the ways in which economic developments have structured race relations. Finally we will analyze strategies employed by people of color to achieve political power and create change.

The following books are on reserve and have been ordered for purchase at The Rainbow Book Cooperative:

Matt Barreto. Ethnic Cues: The Role of Shared Ethnicity in Latino Political Participation.
Bowler and Segura. The Future is Ours.
David Canon. Race, Redistricting and Representation.
Mark Warren. Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize American Democracy.**

Items marked with * on reserve only. Items marked with ** will involve substantial reading but not the entire book. Other readings TBA.

Course Requirements

I. Class Participation

Everyone is expected to read the assigned materials by the day of the seminar and be prepared to participate in discussions. You will also be asked to begin the discussion in one class of your choice. I will have you sign up for these after the first class meeting.
II. Six Paper Assignments

a. A 20 to 25 page research paper relating to race and ethnicity. You are free to choose your topic and approach. Please drop by my office to talk about your paper at your earliest convenience. The term paper is due on the last scheduled class meeting.

b. Five (5) three to four page reaction papers. You may choose which weeks you will write these papers, but I encourage you to spread them throughout the course. A hard copy of your reaction paper is due at 9:00 am Monday. In addition, students should post their papers to the class list (polisci825-1-s12@lists.wisc.edu) so that we all have access to them.

The course grade will be determined as follows:

- Class Participation……… 25%
- Research Paper…………… 50%
- Reaction Papers…………… 25% (5% each)

Office Hours:

Wednesday 11:00 to 12:00 and by appointment in 403 North Hall. I can be reached via email at marquez@polisci.wisc.edu

Please feel free to make an appointment to see me or drop by during my office hours. I welcome students.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: January 23. Introduction and Overview.

Week 2: January 30. The Social Construction of Race


Week 3: February 6. Race and Public Policy Formation


Week 4: February 13. The American Civil Rights Movement

Week 5: February 20. Critical Race Theory


Week 6: February 27. Politics in the Aftermath of the Civil Rights Movement


Week 7: March 5. The Environmental Justice Movement


Week 8: March 12. Latinos and Identity Politics


Week 10: March 26. The Increasing Significance of Class.


*****Spring Recess*****

Week 11: April 9. Race, Immigration and Demographic Change


Week 12: April 16. Arab Americans in a Post 9/11 Society

Readings to be distributed.
Week 13: April 23. Community Organizing Beyond Race

Mark Warren. *Dry Bones Rattling*

Week 14: April 30. Race and Future of American Politics

Bowler and Segura. *The Future is Ours.*

Week 15: May 12th

Student presentations. The class will meet at my home. Details TBA.