PS462: The Political Economy of Race in the U.S.
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2012

Instructor: Saemyi Park
Class Location & Time: SOC SCI 6240 & MWF 12:05 PM - 12:55 PM
Instructor’s Office: 410 North Hall
Office Hours: MWF 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM; and by appointment
E-mail: spark38@wisc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the economic underpinnings of racial politics in the United States. It will examine issues of inequalities and poverty among different race groups in an era of economic restructuring and in contemporary U.S. politics. Debates surrounding questions of racism, assimilation, and identity politics will be incorporated into a discussion of policy formations aimed at achieving collective goals and values such as equality, justice, and democracy in American society. This course will first seek to conceptualize relevant concepts such as race/ethnicity and different types of policies. Next, it will review the various theories to explain the current state of economic and political inequalities among different race groups. Then, this class will analyze different policies with a lens of race and ethnicity. Policies we will cover include education, welfare, health, affirmative action, policing, immigration, environment, housing, and redistricting.

REQUIRED BOOKS

The following books are on reserve at College Library and have been ordered at University Bookstore for purchase:


Besides these required books, relevant articles are assigned for each week’s topic. Please see the course calendar on pages 4-9. These assigned readings will be uploaded to the course website at Learn@UW, so you can download them.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid Term Take-Home Essay (5-6 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Oct. 31 (W); Before Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Oral Presentation on Policy Analysis (15 min.)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>14th-15th Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Take-Home Essay (6-8 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>December 20 (TH) by 4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Every Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must complete all the required work in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. You do NOT have the option to “take a zero” on an assignment. Not submitting all the required work will result either in a final grade of incomplete until the work is submitted or an F for the course. In calculating the final grade, number grades rather than letter grades will be averaged. Make-up exams will be given and late papers accepted without a penalty only in the case of medical and family emergency.

I will distribute separate worksheets containing detailed information about take-home essay exams and group presentation. The ground rule for take-home essay exams is that I will provide the exam questions one week BEFORE the deadline. You have a full week to prepare and write the essay.

COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance:** Regular and prompt attendance, active participation, and mature attentiveness during lecture meetings are mandatory. I will NOT distribute lecture notes via e-mail for students who miss a lecture.

**Readings:** Students are expected to complete each week’s required readings before that lecture. You need to bring your books, assigned readings, and lecture notes to each class.

**Assignments:** The midterm essay is due BEFORE the class begins on October 31 (W). An essay received after the lecture starts is considered late and will be downgraded. The final essay is due on December 20 (TH) by 4:30 PM, and you will submit the hard copy of your essay to my mailbox located in the graduate lounge (1st floor) at North Hall. This building is securely closed at 4:30 PM, so you must hand in your paper BEFORE 4:30 PM. E-mail submissions of papers are NOT permitted and will not be credited or graded, without exception.

**Learn@UW:** I maintain a page for this course at learnuw.wisc.edu. The site contains copies of some of the material distributed in class (this syllabus, for example), outlines of class material, and some material for essay exam preparation. Also, I will hold the online discussion here. This course has been activated, so students must have access to this class through Learn@UW.
**Lectures:** Before we begin a topic in class, I will post an outline of the lecture material on the course website of Learn@UW. The outline for a topic will remain on the website for a day or two after we finish a topic and will then be removed. The outlines give you the framework of the lecture but do not give you the entire script. If you wish, you can print these outlines and bring them with you to class to use as a base for note taking. You will learn and remember better when you write things down yourself. Regarding note taking, make sure you take notes that will be meaningful to you later when you are reviewing your notes, rather than focusing only on transcribing the slides verbatim.

**Office Hours:** Feel free to drop by during my office hours (MWF 1:30 PM-2:30 PM) or make an appointment to see me. I WELCOME students.

**Honesty:** Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html has the details about what constitutes academic misconduct and is worth reviewing. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well in this course, not punish you with a lower grade. Talk to me if you are having a problem so I can try to help you work out a solution.

**Abilities:** Students with the McBurney visa and athletes who will have scheduled games during the semester need to contact me right away. I will do my best to adjust the assignment deadlines if there is a conflict with your schedule.

**Ground Rules:** This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history, theories, and policies. Students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in lecture. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students and me. Also, using a cell phone, iPad, or laptop is NOT allowed in class.
## COURSE CALENDAR
(Topics, readings, and schedule subject to announced change by instructor.)

### Part I: Overview & Theories

#### Week 1
- **Introduction**
  - Course Objectives and Assignments
  - An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being By Race

  No Reading.

#### Week 2
- **Economic and Political Overview**
  - An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being By Race (continued)
  - Political Contexts on Race and Ethnicity (continued)

  “Transformative Assets, the Racial Wealth Gap, and the American Dream” by Thomas M. Shapiro (Ch.7 in RCL)
  “The Ideology of Color Blindness,” by Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres (Ch.13 in RCL)
  “The Possibility of a New Racial Hierarchy in the Twenty-First-Century United States” by Herbert J. Gans (Ch.14 in RCL)

#### Week 3
- **Different Perspectives to Understand Inequalities & Poverty**
  - Culture of Poverty
  - Human Capital Approach
  - Structural Perspective


  **Structural Perspective**: “The New Geography of Inequality in Urban America” by Douglas S. Massey (Ch.6 in RPDP) & “The Disparate Racial Neighborhood Impacts of Metropolitan Economic Restructuring” by Galster et al. (Ch.7 in RPDP) & “Economic Change and the Structure of Opportunity for Less-Skilled Workers” by Rebecca M. Blank in *Focus* (2009)
Part II: Problems & Policies

Week 4
9.24 M  War on Poverty  Antipoverty Policies
9.26 W  Race and War on Poverty
9.28 F  Civil Rights Movements and War on Poverty

“Fighting Poverty: Lessons from Recent U.S. History,” By Rebecca M. Blank (Ch.22 in RPDP)
“Trends in income support,” by Scholz et al. in Focus (2009)

Week 5
10.1 M  Welfare Reform  The Color of Welfare
10.3 W  Welfare Reform
10.5 F  Guest Speaker – Analysis of Welfare Programs

“How Much More Can They Work? Setting Realistic Expectations for Welfare Mothers” by LaDonna Pavetti (Ch. 20 in RPDP)
“Turning Our Backs on the New Deal: The End of Welfare in 1996” by Jeffrey Lehman and Sheldon Danziger (Ch.21 in RPDP)

Week 6
10.8  M  Employment: Discrimination and Affirmative action  Wage Discrimination & Data
10.10 W  Human Capital View
10.12 F  Affirmative Action in the Workplace

“The Growing Importance of Cognitive Skills in Wage Determination” by Murnane et al. (Ch.14 in RPDP)
“Earnings of Black and White Youth and Their Relation to Poverty” by Philip M. Gleason and Glen G. Cain (Ch.16 in RPDP)
“Kristen v. Aisha; Brad v. Rasheed: What’s in a Name and How It Affects Getting a Job” by Amy Braverman (Ch.31 in RCL)
“Sweatshops in Sunset Park: A Variation of the Late-Twentieth-Century Chinese Garment Shops in New York City” by Xiaolan Bao (Ch.34 in RCL)
“Hispanics in the American South and the Transformation of the Poultry Industry” by William Kandel and Emilio A. Parrado (Ch.35 in RCL)

Week 7
Education Policies
10.15 M Racial and Ethnic Disparities at Schools
10.17 W Bilingual Education and Affirmative Action: for Equal Opportunity or Result?
10.19 F Video: Fear and learning at Hoover Elementary


Week 8
Policing, Crime and Poverty, and Hate Crime
10.22 M Racialized Opportunity in Social Institutions
10.24 W Mid Term Take-Home Essay Prompt will be distributed
10.26 F Video: Born in the USA: Muslim Americans

“Whites See Racism as a Zero-Sum Game That They Are Now Losing,” Norton and Sommers in Perspectives on Psychological Science (2011)

“Crime, Poverty, and Entrepreneurship” by Samuel L. Myers, Jr. (Ch.23 in RPDP)
“Violence and the Inner-City Street Code” by Elijah Anderson (Ch.24 in RPDP)
“How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America” by Moustafa Bayoumi (Ch.18 in RCL)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Segregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.29 M</td>
<td>Group Oral Presentation Worksheet will be distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.31 W</td>
<td>Mid Term Take-Home Essay Due (Before the class starts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2 F</td>
<td>How Space Gets Raced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Conditions in U.S. Metropolitan Areas” by Douglas S. Massey (Ch.21 in RCL)  
“Why Are There No Supermarkets in My Neighborhood? The Long Search for Fresh Fruit, Produce, and Healthy Food” by Shannon N. Zenk et al. (Ch.25 in RCL)  
“The Demise of a Dinosaur: Analyzing School and Housing Desegregation in Yonkers” by Jennifer Hochschild and Michael N. Danielson (Ch.8 in RPDP)  
“Suburban Exclusion and the Courts: Can a Class-Based Remedy Reduce Urban Segregation?” by Gary Orfield (Ch.9 in RPDP)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Environmental Policies &amp; Health Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.5 M</td>
<td>Injustice in Environmental Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.7 W</td>
<td>Inequalities in Health Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.9 F</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Environmental Justice in the 21st Century: Race Still Matters” by Robert D. Bullard (Ch.23 in RCL)  
“Understanding Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Health: Sociological Contributions,” by David R. Williams and Michelle Sternthal (Ch.6 in RCL)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Political Participation and Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.12 M</td>
<td>Political Participation and Interests by Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.14 W</td>
<td>Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.16 F</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Craig Gilbert (National Political Correspondent for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel; a tentative schedule)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


---

**Week 12**

**Political Participation and Representation** (continued)

- **11.19 M** Redistricting
- **11.21 W** Non-English Ballot
- **11.23 F** Thanksgiving Break

**Redistricting:** *The Effect of Minority Districts and Minority Representation on Political Participation in California* by Claudine Gay (2001)


---

**Week 13**

**Immigration Policy**

- **11.26 M** Immigration and Race: History
- **11.28 W** Immigration and Race: Contemporary Trends
- **11.30 F** Immigrant Identities

Week 14  
**Bridge over the Racial Divide**  
12.3 M  The Potential for Multi Racial Coalitions  
12.5 W  Racial Coalitions and Its Policy Implication  
12.7 F  Group Oral Presentation Starts

“Dealing with Diversity, Past and Present” & “Can We Be Brought Together?” & “We Are All Multiculturalists Now” by Nathan Glazer in *We are all Multiculturalists Now* (1997)

Week 15  
**Group Oral Presentation**  
12.10 M  2 Groups (15 min. Presentation + 5 min. Discussion per Group)  
12.12 W  2 Groups (15 min. Presentation + 5 min. Discussion per Group)  
12.14 F  2 Groups (15 min. Presentation + 5 min. Discussion per Group)

**Final Take-Home Essay Dues on December 20 (TH) by 4:30 PM**
OTHER RECOMMENDED READINGS

Week 3 Different Perspectives to Understand Inequalities & Poverty
- “From Income Inequality to Economic Inequality” by Amartya K. Sen
- “The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City” by Wacquant and Wilson

Week 6 Employment: Discrimination and Affirmative Action
- “Black Youth Employment Problems” by Robert Cherry
- “Unemployment Differentials among Spanish-Origin Groups” by DeFreitas
- “Workforce & Affirmative Action Report,” by State of Wisconsin
- “Affirmative Action in the Labor Market” by Dave M. O’Neill and June O’Neill

Week 7 Education Policies
- “Savage Inequalities” by Jonathan Kozol
- “Structuring Failure and Success: Understanding the Variability in Latino School Engagement” by Gilberto Q. Conchas

Week 8 Policing, Crime and Poverty, and Hate Crime
- “Laissez-Faire Racism, Racial Inequality, and the Role of the Social Sciences” by Lawrence D. Bobo
- “Civil Liberties and the Otherization of Arab and Muslim Americans,” by Amaney Jamal

Week 10 Environmental Policies & Health Program
- “Environmental Justice: A Brief History and Overview” by Glenn S. Johnson
- “Racial Trends in the Use of Major Procedures among the Elderly” by Jha et al.
- “Trends in the Quality of Care and Racial Disparities in Medicare Managed Care” by Trivedi et al.

Week 11-12 Political Participation & Representation
- “Democrats, Republican, or None of the Above,” by Wong et al.
- “Latinos, Blacks, and Multiethnic Politics in Denver: Realigning Power and Influence in the Struggle for Equality” by Rodney Hero and Susan Clarke
- “Race, Sociopolitical Participation, and Black Empowerment” by Lawrence Bobo and Franklin D. Gillam, Jr.