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:

Christopher S. Parker and Matt Barreto. *Change They Can’t Believe In: The Tea Party and Reactionary Politics in America.*
Ian Haney-López. *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Wrecked the Middle Class.*

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 the discussion. 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 Tuesday. In addition, students should post their papers to the class list (polisci825-1-s14@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 1:30 to 3:30 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 21st Introduction and Overview.

Week 2: January 28th Individual Meetings to Discuss Research Papers

Week 3: February 4th The Social Construction of Race

Week 4: February 11th The Rising Significance of Class


Week 5: February 18th The Legacy of Racial Privilege


Week 6: February 25th The Continuing Significance of Race

Ian Haney-López. *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Wrecked the Middle Class.*

Week 7: March 4th Blurring the Color Line


Week 8: March 11th Latinos and Identity Politics


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


Christopher S. Parker and Matt Barreto. *Change They Can’t Believe In: The Tea Party and Reactionary Politics in America.*

Week 10: April 1st Party Politics and Racial Representation


Week 11: April 8th Asian Americans and Identity Politics

Week 12: April 15th Who Assimilates Into American Society?


Week 13: April 22nd Getting Out the Minority Vote


Week 14: April 29th The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement


Week 15: May 10th

The final class will take place at my home on the 10th. Our special guest will be William P. Jones.