Race and Politics

Description
This course provides a selective survey of the vast literature on race and politics in the contemporary United States. Our purpose is to understand the complex relationship between racial and ethnic identity and political outcomes in the United States. As such, we will explore broad political science concepts in the context of racial and ethnic groups. We will focus on African Americans and Latino/as in this course, but where appropriate, we will look to Asian Americans and Native Americans. Students are assumed to have some familiarity with the American political system. This semester, we will focus on the Chicago mayoral/city council election, so we will pay close attention to this race. I will ask you to select a candidate to follow. You will use polling data to write two papers about your candidate. ** There is also a Mayoral Election in Columbia, MO, which we will try to keep up with as well.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to interpret basic data tables and/or charts and connect the results to real world outcomes.

Diversity Intensive Statement: This class considers the way racial and ethnic groups interact in the political arena in the United States. We will focus national, state, and local politics. There will be an emphasis on social inequality in terms of poverty, affordable housing, job creation, development, voting behavior, and gentrification. This course will also consider representation on in terms of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on one midterm exam, a final group project, participation, two 5-page papers (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins), and a final exam.

• The exams will be a combination of short-answer and longer essays.
• Each exam is worth 15% of your grade.
• The paper topics will focus on Electoral Behavior among groups you select.
  o Each paper is worth 15% of your grade (Late Papers = 3pts deducted for each day the paper is late).
• The final group project is worth 15% of your grade. In groups of 3-4, you will create a Political Ad for one of a set of mayoral candidates.

Our Final Exam is Monday, May 13, 2019 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. This exam is mandatory.

Given the size of this class, Participation is worth 25% of your grade. Attendance is Mandatory. You may miss 2 classes without penalty. There is no need to email about your 2 free absences. As part of your participation grade, you will be asked to lead discussion with a partner once during the semester (See Discussion Leader Guidelines). Please be prepared to discuss topics in class! I expect that you have done the reading before class and view class time as a chance to build on your understanding of the readings (through mini lectures, discussions, in-class assignments, pop quizzes and questions). In class assignments and pop quizzes count towards your participation grade.

Grading
Midterm: 30 points
Paper #1: 30 Points
Paper #2: 30 Points
Final Project: 30 Points
Final Exam: 30 Points
Participation: 50 Points

Scale:

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Academic Honesty
Please refrain from cheating or plagiarizing. If you have questions or concerns, please refer to the come see me in Office Hours.

Etiquette
Please silence your cell phones! I do not want to see or hear them (even on vibrate). They are distracting to you, your classmates, and me.

Computer Policy: Unless you have my permission, I ask that you do not use laptops in class. The research suggests they do not help you learn better than paper and pencil notes. I reserve the right to remind you of these policies if I notice you are distracted by any electronics.

Please use the course title in the subject line for ALL email correspondence to me. Otherwise, I may not receive your email. Furthermore, please refrain from slang, text/chat abbreviations, and colloquialisms in your email correspondence with me. I will not attempt to decipher the meanings of your messages.
The topics in this class can be emotionally charged. Questions are encouraged and the goal is learning in a safe, respectful environment.

The professor reserves to right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates (excluding the officially scheduled final examination), when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.
Required Texts


https://www.thecitypodcast.com (You can listen online or where ever your get your podcasts). This site includes the transcripts in case you want to read along.

Optional:

All other readings are available on our Canvas Course Site.

1. **Introduction to Course**
   1/22 (Introductions)
   Hajnal and Lee Chapter 1 (1-32)

2. **Identity Politics**

   1. **Definitions and Measurement:**
      1/24


      1/29: The City Podcast episodes 1-5

      1/31 The City Podcast episodes 5-10

2. **Historical Foundations**

   2/5

3. **Group Identity/Interests**

2/7

2/12
Black Politics in Transition: Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

**Hajnal and Lee Chapters 2-3 (33-102) Optional. Optional. I will have a handout on this.**

3. **Participation**

4. **Enfranchisement**

2/14

2/19


5. **Campaigns**

2/21


**Paper #1 Due (Exact Date TBA).**

6. **Elections and Voting**

2/26

2/28


**MIDTERM COVERS MATERIAL ABOVE

3/5: MIDTERM

4. Public Opinion

7. Black and Latino Public Opinion

3/7


Hajnal and Lee Chapter 4 (103-144) Optional. I will have a handout on this.

5. Political Parties

8. Race, Ethnicity, and the Party System

3/12


3/14
Philpot Chapter TBD (will be posted online)

6. Representation

9. Black and Latino Representation

3/19
Black Politics in Transition Chapters 5 and 6.

Hajnal and Lee Chapters 5, 6, and 7 (145-238). Optional. I will have a handout on this.

3/21


**Spring Break 3/25-3/29 No Classes**

7. Gender

10. Race and Gender

4/2

Holman, Mirya. 2017 “Women in Local Government: What We Know and Where We Go from Here.” *State and Local Government Review*. pages 1-12

4/4


8. Policy Issues

11. Immigration and Affirmative Action

4/9

Black Transitions Chapter 3.

9. Intergroup Relations

12. Competition

4/11


4/16

4/18

**Group Projects due 4/19/19 by 5pm**

4/23—Ad Viewing in Class!

**13. Cooperation**

4/25


4/30
Black Transitions Chapter 4.

**10. Race and Urban Politics**

5/2

5/7
11. Wrap Up

5/9
Black Transitions Chapters 7, 8, and 9

Hajnal and Lee Chapters 8 and 9 (239-290) Optional. I will have a handout on this.

Paper # 2 Due (5/9/2019)