

## Intro to Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States: The Possibilities of Solidarity

### Instructor

Professor Davies

### Course Description

Race is a central feature of American politics. It is impossible to understand America's past and present without the context of race as a sociopolitical structure and the ways it is used to maintain power in the US. In this course, we will focus on social science readings that will provide an overview of the construction of race in America. Students will consider how race influences American politics and structures political behavior. We will focus on the question of and problems with building cross racial solidarity in the US.

### Required Text

McClain, Paula. D. and Jessica Johnson Carew. 2018. *Can We All Get Along: Race and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics*, Seventh Edition.

### Week 1: Course Introduction and Creating Race

#### Class 1

- Syllabus Review
- McClain and Carew, Chapter 1: pp 1-25.

#### Class 2

- Fields, Barbara. 1982. "Ideology and Race in American History," pp. 143-169.
- Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 2015. "The Theory of Racial Formation." *Racial Formation in the United States*. pp. 105-132.

#### **Additional Resources:** NYT Op-Docs on Race

[A Conversation with Latinos on Race](#)

[A Conversation with Asian Americans on Race](#)

[A Conversation with Native Americans on Race](#)

[A Conversation with Black Women on Race](#)

### Week 2: The Establishment and Uses of Whiteness as a Racial Category

#### Class 3

- Du Bois, W.E.B. 1920. "The Souls of White Folk," in *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil*. [https://www.gutenberg.org/files/15210/15210-h/15210-h.htm#Chapter\\_II](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/15210/15210-h/15210-h.htm#Chapter_II). (pdf also available on Canvas.

- Jardina, Ashley. 2018. “The New American Minority,” and “Policies that Protect the Group,” in *White Identity Politics*.

**Additional Resources:** NYT Op-Docs on Race

[A Conversation with White People on Race](#)

**Class 4**

- Painter, Nell Irvin. 2010. “Early American White People Observed,” in *The History of White People*

**Week 3: The Practice & Purpose of Racial Violence**

**Class 5**

- Wells, Ida B. *The Red Record*, Chapter 1. “The Case Stated.”  
<<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14977/14977-h/14977-h.htm>>
- Francis, Megan Ming. 2014. *Civil Rights and the Making of the Modern State*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5 “Defending the Right to Live.” pp. 127-163.
- The Ferguson Report, 2015. Summary, pp 1-6.  
<[https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson\\_police\\_department\\_report.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson_police_department_report.pdf)>.

**Class 6**

- Gilio-Whitaker, Dina. 2019. *As Long as Grass Grows*. “Chapter 2: Genocide by Any other Name” and “Chapter 3: The Complicated Legacy of Western Expansion and the Industrial Revolution.”

**Week 4: Classic Civil Rights Movement(s)**

**Class 7**

- McClain and Carew, Chapter 2. “Resources and Status of America’s Racial Minorities.” pp. 42-63.
- King, Jr, Martin Luther. 1963. *Why We Can’t Wait*. “Introduction” & “Chapter 1: The Negro Revolution: Why 1963?” xi-16. *Signet Classics*, 2000.

**Class 8**

- Umemoto, Karen. 2016. “‘On Strike!’ San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-1969: The Role of Asian American Students” in *Contemporary Asian America*. pp. 1-25.
- Gutiérrez, José Ángel. 2011. “.” *The Social Studies*, 102:1, 25-32. The Chicano Movement: Paths to Power

### **Week 5: The Parameters of Citizenship and Migration**

#### **Class 9**

- Kim, Claire. 1999. "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans." *Politics & Society*. Volume 27, Issue 1. pp. 105-138. <<https://doi.org/10.1177/0032329299027001005>>.
- Junn, Jane. 2007. "From Coolie to Model Minority: US Immigration Policy and the Construction of Racial Identity." *Du Bois Review*. pp. 355-371.

#### **Class 10**

- Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press. Ch. 2 "Deportation Policy and the Making and Unmaking of Illegal Aliens." pp. 56-90.

### **Week 6: Political Representation**

#### **Class 11**

- McClain and Carew, Chapter 4 "America's Racial Minorities and the Policymaking Process." pp. 153-211.

#### **Class 12**

- Tesler, Michael and David O Sears. 2010. *Obama's Race: The 2008 election and the dream of a post-racial America*. Chapter 1, "Race in Presidential Elections." pp. 11-28.
- Harris, Frederick C. 2012. *The Price of the Ticket*. "Respectability as Public Philosophy." pp. 100-136.

### **Week 7: Political Participation**

#### **Class 13**

- Documentary Screening: *Knock Down the House*

#### **Class 14**

- McClain and Carew, Chapter 3. "America's Racial Minorities in the Contemporary Political System: *Actors*," pp. 73-151.
- Garcia, John A and Gabriel Ramon Sanchez, 2022. *Latino Politics in America: Community, Culture, and Interests, Fourth Edition*, Chapter 6: Latino Political Participation. pp. 103-128.

### **Week 8: Political Participation and Recent Movements for Racial Justice**

#### **Class 15**

- Dawson, Michael C. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African American Politics*. Chapter 6: "African American Political Choice." pp. 130-157.
- Wong, Janelle, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Takeu Lee, Jane Junn, 2011. *Asian American Political Participation*. Chapter 1: "Making Visible: Political Participation." pp. 1-33.

#### **Class 16**

- Zepeda Milan, Chris. 2017. *Latino Mass Mobilization*, Chapter 2: "Weapons of the Not So Weak." pp. 41-66.

- Taylor, Keeyanga Yahmatta . 2016. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chapter 6: “Black Lives Matter: A Movement, Not a Moment.” pp. 153-190.

### **Week 9: Intersecting Identities in Politics**

#### **Class 17**

- McClain and Carew, Chapter 5: “Intersectional Identity in Racial and Ethnic Politics,” 213-247.
- Phillips, Christian Dyogi. 2021. *Nowhere to Run: Race, Gender, and Immigration in American Elections*. Chapter 1: “Introduction.” pp. 1-28.

#### **Class 18**

- Cohen, Cathy. 1997. “Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens” in *GLQ*, Vol 3. pp. 437-465.
- Wong, Diane. 2019. “Shop Talk and Everyday Sites of Resistance to Gentrification in Manhattan’s Chinatown.” *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 47, No. 1 & 2, pp. 132-148.
- Davies, Elizabeth Jordie. 2023. *Distinct Identities II*. eds. Nadia Brown and Sarah Allen Gershon. “Talking the Talk: Lori Lightfoot on Policing and Violence in Chicago.” pp. 131-147.

### **Week 10: Cross Racial Solidarity**

#### **Class 19**

- McClain and Carew, Chapter 6: “Racial Threat and Competition Theories: Memphis, Little Rock, and Durham” and Chapter 7: “Will We All Get Along?” pp. 257-286.

#### **Class 20**

- Course Review and Exam Prep