

RACE, ETHNICITY AND POLITICS
GOV 2052/AFRS2052
FALL 2019

Instructor: Dr. Chryl Laird
Office Location: 204 Hubbard Hall
Email: claird@bowdoin.edu

Classroom: Searles 215
Class Meetings: Mon. & Wed. 1:15PM-2:40PM
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 10AM-11AM or by appointment
Sign up for office hours: <https://claird.youcanbook.me/>

“I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust...We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.” — Justice Thurgood Marshall, 1992

Course Description

This course introduces students to the dynamics of race/ethnicity in United States and specifically examines the role of race/ethnicity in American politics. This course utilizes an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates theoretical frameworks, empirics and commentary to understand concepts of race and identity. To understand the intersection between race/ethnicity and politics we will explore several questions including: What is the origin of race? What is the origin of ethnicity? How has race/ethnicity been defined and employed by American political institutions and actors? What is the nature of minority group representation and how has it affected policy and politics? How do intergroup and intragroup dynamics shape people's worldviews and the political environment? How are changing demographics in the United States going to influence the politics of race in the contemporary era and beyond?

Course Objectives and Goals

- To understand the contemporary and historical theories that are integral to race and ethnic politics.
- To develop student's ability to critically assess and discuss issues of race in politics.
- To understand the effect that race, racism and discrimination has had on shaping political behavior and institutions.
- To adjudicate between competing theories or arguments, giving credit to perspectives other than their own.

Required Textbooks

The required textbooks are available at the online bookstore: <https://bowdoin.ecampus.com>

- McClain, Paula. D. and Joseph Stewart Jr. 2014. *Can We All Get Along: Race and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics, 6th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (referenced as MS in syllabus)

I will also be posting required readings on the Blackboard website for the course or emailing them to the class.

Student Assistance

I want my students to do well in this course. I am open to answering questions, clarifying materials, offer suggestions for studying, assisting with paper writing and addressing any concerns you may have about the course. I have assigned office hours listed in the syllabus, but I can also make arrangements to meet at alternate times if you unable to attend office hours. Questions and concerns can also be raised in class and I encourage you to do so.

Classroom Behavior

In class discussions will be a central part of this course. These discussions will be based on the assigned readings as well content brought up in lecture. I believe that these discussions can benefit students in a variety of different ways. Students will not only enhance their critical thinking skills but they will also be exposed to alternative opinions related to a particular issue. Students will have to learn how to defend their view in a rational way when presented with an opposing view. Many of these issues could be considered controversial and/or sensitive. Students should feel free to express their opinions. At the same time we must remember to respect one another and maintain a constructive and civil dialogue. If you are unable to engage in conversation in this manner you will be dismissed from the discussion.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code:

I expect all students to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code. If you have any concerns or questions about how to cite work appropriately, please consult me or a reference librarian. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>

Disability Services: Students who have documented learning disabilities with the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs may be entitled to various accommodations. It is your responsibility to initiate with me any conversation over accommodations. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/accommodation-policy.shtml>

Writing Services:

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Project @ Bowdoin. Getting feedback benefits all writers! Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. Bring your assignment description, and a few goals, to the consultation! For more information, or to make an appointment please visit: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-project/>

Assignments and Grading

	Percentage
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	25%
Final Paper	35%
In-Class Participation	10%
Recorded Reactions (4)	10%
TOTAL	100%

Exams

The Midterm and Final Exam are essay-based take home exams. Questions for the exam will be given at least 24 hours before the due date. **Submissions must be typed and submitted as PDFs or Word to Blackboard by assigned deadline.** Make-up exams will only be available for excused circumstances with documentation from the College or physician. **Exams are open book but not collaborative. The must be completed on your own.** If collaboration is suspected, I will bring this to the College as a possible violation of the honor code. **Emailed copies of the exam will not be accepted.**

Final Paper

The final paper will be a 10-12 page research paper. You are to write a scholarly paper on a topic of your choice related to race, ethnicity and politics. The paper should be well researched using primary and/or secondary sources. You should also incorporate some course content. The papers should include a research question, thesis, analyze evidence that supports the thesis, and end with a conclusion that considers the significance and limitations of the analysis. A portion of your grade for the paper will be based on your class presentation as well as your paper proposal. Further details about the final paper will be provided later in the semester. If the paper is submitted after the deadline, the late policy will apply. **Emailed copies of the final paper will not be accepted.**

Recorded Reactions

Recorded reactions are audio file reactions to the readings. You are to complete these prior to the class period in which we will be discussing the readings. You should upload your audio file on Monday by 11:30AM to Blackboard. **Once the material has been discussed in class, a late submission for that week will not be accepted.** You can decide to do the recorded reaction for any week, but **two must be submitted before the midterm and two after the midterm. There are no make-ups for recorded reactions.**

Participation

I will also be grading you on in-class participation. During class discussion, I will be taking note of students that participate. The assessment will be based on your participation throughout the entire semester.

Pop Quizzes

Pop Quizzes will be administered if it becomes apparent that students are not doing course readings. These pop quizzes will count towards your daily participation grade. **There are no make-ups for pop quizzes.**

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments submitted late will lose 1/3 letter grade for any late submission within the first 24 hours. Each additional 24 hours results in another 1/3 letter grade reduction. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for emergencies or health challenges that are documented by the College administration (the Dean's office).

Attendance Policy

Your attendance record will also be as a way to assess your participation. You are expected to attend every class. I will take attendance during class. **You will be permitted 2 unexcused absences.** Please don't email me about why you are using an unexcused absence. **For every additional absence there will be an automatic 1/3 letter grade deduction from your overall course grade (ex: A to A-) unless provided with official documentation from the College. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out the work that was missed from your other classmates.**

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be at the discretion of the instruction. You will be notified of these opportunities if they become available.

Final Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 92.5	B-	≥ 79.5	D+	≥ 66.5
A-	≥ 89.5	C+	≥ 76.5	D	≥ 62.5
B+	≥ 86.5	C	≥ 72.5	D-	≥ 59.5
B	≥ 82.5	C-	≥ 69.5	F	< 59.5

Tentative Class Schedule

Below is a tentative class schedule. The schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Part 1: Theories and History of Race in U.S. Politics

Weeks	Readings
Week 1 (Sept 4)	Introduction and Syllabus
Week 2 (Sept 9 & 11) The End of the Obama Era & The Rise of the Trump Era	Sept 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ta-Nehisi Coates “My President Was Black” Daniel Foster “Obama’s Faith in White America Was Not Misplaced” Sept 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nell Irvin Painter “The Trump Era: The Politics of Race and Class” Mark Lilla “The End of Identity Liberalism”
Week 3 (Sept 16 & 18) America’s Racial Dilemma	Sept 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Chapter 1 Michael Omi & Howard Winant “Racial Formation” from <i>Racial Formation in the United States</i> Complete Race IAT: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html and bring in paper copy of results. Sept 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATCH (through Bowdoin Library): Lacey Schwartz- <i>Little White Lies</i> Khushbu Shah- “They Look White but Say They’re Black: A Tiny Town in Ohio Wrestles with Race” Vincent Hutchings and Nick Valentino- “Centrality of Race in American Politics”
Week 4 (Sept 23 & 25) History of Race Politics	Sept 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Akers “Removing the Heart of the Choctaw People” Sept 25: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Delgado “The Law of the Noose: A History of Latino Lynching”
Week 5 (Sept 30 & Oct 2) Demographic and Population Politics	Sept 30 & Oct 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Chapter 2 Bill Wanlund- Changing Demographics (CQ)
Week 6 (Oct 7 & 9) Public Opinion and Political Attitudes	Oct 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Chapter 3 Oct 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natalie Masuoka “Together They Become One: Examining the Predictors of Panethnic Group Consciousness Among Asian Americans and Latinos” Joane Nagel “Indian Ethnic Renewal: Politics and the Resurgence of Identity”

Week 7 (Oct 14 & 16) Public Opinion and Political Attitudes-White Identity and Whiteness	Oct 14: FALL BREAK-NO CLASS Oct 16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders “The Racial Divide in Public Opinion” in <i>Divided by Color</i> Antoine Banks “A Theory of Anger and Contemporary White Racial Attitudes”
Week 8 (Oct 21 & 23) MIDTERM & Public Opinion and Political Attitudes-White Identity and Whiteness (cont’d)	Oct 21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt Barretto and Chris Parker-Excerpt from <i>Change We Can Believe In</i> Ashley Jardina-Excerpt from <i>White Identity Politics</i> Oct 23: MIDTERM DUE BY 11:59PM
Week 9 (Oct 28 & 30) Elections and Participation	Oct 28: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Chapter 3 Blackboard: Pew Research Behind Trump’s Victory Oct 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P. Lien, C. Collet, J. Wong, and S. Karthick Ramakrishan “Asian Pacific-American Public Opinion and Political Participation” Stephanie Woodward “The Missing Native Vote”
Week 10 (Nov 4 & Nov 6) Race and Representation	Nov 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Chapter 3 Katherine Tate “The Puzzle of Representation” Chapter 1 in <i>Black Faces in the Mirror</i> Nov 6: Kenneth Jost “Redistricting Debates” (CQ)
Week 11 (Nov 11 & 13) Policy: Boarder Security & Immigration	Nov 11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenneth Jost “Immigration Conflict” (CQ) Nov 13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ginger Thompson “A Border Agent Reveals What it is Really Like to Guard Migrant Children” WATCH: Separated: Children at the Border https://www.pbs.org/video/separated-children-border-b-maznib/
Week 12 (Nov 18 & 20) Policy: American Indian Sovereignty & Rights	Nov 18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pete Katel and Charles S. Clark “American Indians” (CQ) Democracy Now-Dakota Access Pipeline Winona Laduke Interview WATCH IN CLASS FILM: On a Knife Edge Nov 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATCH IN CLASS FILM: On a Knife Edge
Week 13 (Nov 25 & 27) Policy: Racial Diversity in Schools	Nov 25: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikole Hannah-Jones “Segregation Now” https://www.propublica.org/article/segregation-now-the-resegregation-of-americas-schools#intro WATCH: Frontline: Separate and Unequal http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/separate-and-unequal/ Nov 27: THANKSGIVING BREAK-NO CLASSES

Week 14 (Dec 2 & 4)	Dec 2:
Policy: Affirmative Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATCH: The History of Affirmative Action https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWYNNFu1aQk • Ira Kratznelson “Making Affirmative Action White Again” • Anemona Hartocollis and Stephanie Saul “Affirmative Action Battle Has a New Focus: Asian Amerians”
	Dec 4: Student Presentations
Week 15 (Dec 9 & 11)	Dec 9: Student Presentations
	Final Papers Due @ Beginning of Class December 11th (Hard Copy)
	Dec 11: Student Presentations

**Final Exam Due on Blackboard Monday, December 16th by 4:30PM
(Registrar’s Final Exam Time)**

Online Resources

Latino USA: <http://latinousa.org>

Native Voice One: <http://www.nv1.org>

CodeSwitch NPR: <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

Our National Conversation About Conversations about Race: <https://www.showaboutrace.com>

NPR Politics: <http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510310/npr-politics-podcast>

Kollabcast: <http://kollaboration.org/podcasts/>

The Root: <http://www.theroot.com>

NBC Asian America: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america>

Very Smart Brothas: <http://verysmartbrothas.com>

The Monkey Cage (Political Science blog): https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/?utm_term=.45108ff0849c

Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago: <https://csrpc.uchicago.edu>

Center for Race and Ethnicity at Rutgers University: <http://raceethnicity.rutgers.edu>

Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences at Duke University:
<http://regss.trinity.duke.edu>

The Anna Julia Cooper Center at Wake Forest University: <http://ajccenter.wfu.edu>

Race and Ethnicity-Pew Research Center: <http://www.pewresearch.org/topics/race-and-ethnicity/>

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies: <http://jointcenter.org>