

# Ethnic and Minority Politics

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 401I**  
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**  
**Spring 2006**

Professor: Kenneth E. Fernandez  
Phone: 895-4029  
Office: Department of Political Science; Wright Hall B209  
Office Hours: TR 10 - 11:30 a.m., or by appointment  
Email: kenneth.fernandez@unlv.edu  
Website: www.unlv.edu/faculty3/kfernandez/ethnic.htm  
Class Meets: TR 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., Wright Hall C237

**Introduction:** Racial and ethnic identities remain an important part of how people view both themselves and others. The purpose of this course is to review the literature regarding the role "race" and "minority status" plays in American politics and policy. The first goal of this class will be to understand better what the concepts of race and ethnicity mean and how they affect various aspects of American society. We will also spend time discussing the different circumstances of individual minority groups. The course aims to examine and carefully analyze competing ideologies and several different strategies of minority empowerment. The intent of the course is that this examination and analysis will not only enhance our understanding of these groups' increasingly significant political roles, but will illuminate important features of the U.S. political system as well.

## Required Texts:

- Gary Segura and Shaun Bowler, eds. *Diversity in Democracy: Minority Representation in the United States*. University of Virginia Press, 2005.
- Michael Lemay. *The Perennial Struggle: Race, Ethnicity, and Minority Group Politics in the United States*. Prentice Hall, 2000.
- 29 Articles – Available on WebCT (<https://webctce.unlv.edu/webct/public/home.pl>). If you are having problems accessing WebCT you can contact Student Computing Support Center at <http://ccs.unlv.edu/scri/support/default.asp> or by Phone: (702) 895-0761.

A copy of the books and the reading packet will be placed on 2 hour Reserves at the Lied Library

**Attendance & Participation:** 15% of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation. If you are habitually late, the attendance portion of your course grade will be marked down substantially

**Pop Quizzes:** 6 pop quizzes will be given during the course. Only the highest 3 scores will be used to calculate your quiz grad which is 20% of your overall course grade. Pop quizzes cannot be made up (no exceptions).

**Exams:** There will be a take home midterm and a take home final exam. The essay questions will be based on the assigned readings and lectures. Make up exams are reserved for emergency situations and official university functions. In all cases, the reason must be documented (police report for an accident, doctor’s letter for a serious illness on official letterhead), letter from the athletic director, etc. In regard to the observance of a religious holiday, University policy states that students must notify the instructor about anticipated absences by the last day of late registration (January 23) to be assured the opportunity to make up missed work.

Students should familiarize themselves with the university’s policy on plagiarism (see page 58 in undergraduate catalog or [www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/](http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/).) and understand that I will recommend expulsion if I discover any academic dishonesty. Late exams will be marked down a full grade for every day (24 hour period) late.

Exams will be graded on the mastery of the course material, writing style (e.g., clarity) and grammar. If writing is not your strongest ability UNLV has a writing center with well-trained tutors who help students of all skill levels in all disciplines. All services are free for enrolled students. The Writing Center is located at FDH 240 and can be reached at 895-3908.

**Disability Policy:** The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their numbers are: (702-895-0866/Voice; 702-895-0652/TDD. For additional information please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>.

**Grading Policy:** The value of each course component is as follows:

COMPONENT	DUE DATE	COURSE VALUE
Take Home Midterm	Tue. February 23/Due February 28	30%
Attendance/Participation	N/A	15%
Pop quizzes	N/A	20%
Final Exam	Thu. May 4/Due Tues. May 9 - 1 pm	35%

**The assignment of letter grades is as follows:**

92 < = A	80-81 = B-	67-69 = D+
90-91 = A-	77-79 = C+	62-66 = D
87-89 = B+	72-76 = C	60-61 = D-
82-86 = B	70-71 = C-	> 59 = F

\* Rounding at .5

**COURSE CALENDAR:**

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (approx. # of pages)
Week 1	T - January 17	Introduction to Course	
Week 1	R - January 19	Race and Political Science	Woofter; Wilson III; <b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.1-23 (32 pages)
Week 2	T - January 24	Identity Politics	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 1; (29 pages)
Week 2	R - January 26	Theories and Concepts of Race and Ethnicity	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 2 (40 pages)
Week 3	T - January 31	Minorities and the Economy	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 3 (51 pages)
Week 3	R - February 2	Race and Politics	<b>LeMay</b> Ch.4 (41 pages)
Week 4	T - February 7	Separation and Isolation	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 5; Malcom X (44 pages)
Week 4	R - February 9	Movie: <i>Get on the Bus</i>	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 6 (25 pages)
Week 5	T - February 14	Civil Rights and Social Mobilization	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 8; Geron, et. al. (50 pages)
Week 5	R - February 16	Race and Political Parties	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.51-71 & p.102-119 (35 pages)
Week 6	T - February 21	Race, Public Attitudes and the Media	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.29-50; Gilliam, et. al. (40 pages)
Week 6	R - February 23	Race and Political Campaigns <b>(Take Home Midterm)</b>	Terkildsen & Damore; Mendelberg (40 pages)
Week 7	T - February 28	Media depictions of Minorities: Movies – <i>Bronze Screen</i>	Dates & Mascaró (6 pages)
Week 7	R - March 2	Voting and Race	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.123-189 (52 pages)
Week 8	T - March 7	Representation	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.193-231; Aoki & Nakanishi (34 pages)

Week 8	R - March 9	Representation Cont.	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.232-277 (33 pages)
	March 12 - 18	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 9	T - March 21	Cultural & Religious Minorities	Mauss; Husain & O'Brien (37 pages)
Week 9	R - March 23	Sexuality and Minority Politics	Sherrill; Hunt; Bernstein (40 pages)
Week 10	T - March 28	Movie: <i>Crash</i>	Kaufmann (10 pages)
Week 10	R - March 30	Conflict and Cooperation between minorities	Bledsoe, et. al.; Jackson, Gerber & Cain; (37 pages)
Week 11	T - April 4	International Ethnic Politics	Taras & Ganguly (33 pages)
Week 11	R - April 6	Race and Public policies	<b>LeMay</b> Ch. 9 (63 pages)
Week 12	T - April 11	Multiculturalism	Johnson; Beckett & Macey; Kalev (31 pages)
Week 12	R - April 13	Affirmative Action	Holzer & Neumark p. 1-40
Week 13	T - April 18	Affirmative Action Cont.	Holzer & Neumark p. 41-87
Week 13	R - April 20	Immigration Movie - <i>A day without a Mexican</i>	Huntington (15 pages)
Week 14	T - April 25	Immigration Cont.	Huber & Espenshade; Freeman & Birrell (45 pages)
Week 14	R - April 27	Race and Education	Roscigno; Fraga, et. al. (43 pages)
Week 15	T - May 2	Race and the Criminal Justice System	Hawkins; Steffensmeier & Demuth (46 pages)
Week 15	R - May 4	Conclusion ( <b>Take Home Final</b> )	<b>Segura/Bowler</b> p.278-301 (30 pages)
Final	T - May 9	FINAL EXAM DUE	

## Articles – Required Reading - Located on WebCT

Articles – Available on WebCT (<https://webctce.unlv.edu/webct/public/home.pl>). If you are having problems accessing WebCT you can contact Student Computing Support Center at <http://ccs.unlv.edu/sct/support/default.asp> or by Phone: (702) 895-0761.

Aoki, Andrew L., and Don T. Nakanish. 2001. Asian Pacific Americans and the New Minority Politics. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34(September), 605-610.

Beckett, Clare, and Marie Macey. 2001. Race, Gender, and Sexuality: The Oppression of Multiculturalism. *Women's Studies International Forum* 24(3/4), 309-319.

Bernstein, Mary. 1997. Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 103(3, November), 531-565.

Bledsoe, Timothy; Susan Welch; Lee Sigelman; and Michael Combs. 1995. Residential Context and Racial Solidarity among African Americans. *American Journal of Political Science* 39(2, May), 434-458.

Dates, Jannette, L., and Thomas A. Mascaro. 2005. African Americans in Film and Television: Twentieth-Century Lessons for a New Millennium. *Journal of Popular Film and Television* 33(2, Summer):50-54.

Fraga, Luis Ricardo, Kenneth J. Meier, and Robert E. England. 1986. Hispanic Americans and Educational Policy: Limits to Equal Access. *The Journal of Politics* 48(4, November), 850-876.

Freeman, Gary P., and Bob Birrell. 2001. Divergent Paths of Immigration Politics in the United States and Australia. *Population and Development Review* 27(3, September), 525-551.

Geron, Kim, Enrique de la Cruz, Leland T. Saito; Jaideep Singh. Asiann Pacific Americans' Social Movements and Interest Groups. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34(3, September), 618-624.

Gilliam, Franklin D., Nicholas A. Valentino, and Matthew N. Bechmann. 2002. Where You Live and What You Watch: The Impact of Racial Proximity and Local Television News on Attitudes about Race and Crime. *Political Research Quarterly* 55(4, December), 755-780.

Hawkins, Darnell F. 1987. Beyond Anomalies: Rethinking the Conflict Perspective on Race and Criminal Punishment. *Social Forces* 65(3, March), 719-745.

Holzer, Harry and David Neumark. 2000. Assessing Affirmative Action. *Journal of Economic Literature* 38(3, September), 483-568.

Huber, Gregory A., and Thomas J. Espenshade. 1997. Neo-Isolationism, Balanced-Budget Conservatism, and the Fiscal Impacts of Immigrants. *International Migration Review* 31(4, Winter), 1031-1054.

Hunt, Ronald J. 1992. Gay and Lesbian Politics. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 25(2, June), 220-224.

- Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. The Hispanic Challenge. *Foreign Policy*, March/April, 30-45.
- Husain, Fatima and Margaret O'Brien. 2000. Muslim Communities in Europe: Reconstruction and Transformation. *Current Sociology* 48(4, October): 1-13.
- Jackson, Byran O., Elisabeth R. Gerber, and Bruce E. Cain. 1994. Coalitional Prospects in a Multi-Racial Society: African-American Attitudes toward Other Minority Groups. *Political Research Quarterly* 47(2, June): 277-294.
- Johnson, James. 2000. Why Respect Culture? *American Journal of Political Science* 44(3, July): 405-418.
- Kalev, Henriette Dahn. 2004. Cultural Rights or Human Rights: The Case of Female Genital Mutilation. *Sex Roles* 51(5/6, September): 339-348.
- Kaufmann, Karen M. 2003. Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions. *Political Research Quarterly* 56(2, June): 199-210.
- Mauss, Armand L. 1984. Sociological Perspectives on the Mormon Subculture. *Annual Review of Sociology* 10: 437-460.
- Mendelberg, Tali. 1997. Executing Hortons: Racial Crime in the 1988 Presidential Campaign. *The Public Opinion Quarterly* 61(1, Spring): 134-157.
- Roscigno, Vincent J. 1998. Race and the Reproduction of Educational Disadvantage. *Social Forces* 76(3, March): 1033-1061.
- Sherrill, Kenneth. 1996. The Political Power of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29(3, September): 469-473.
- Steffensmeier, Darrell and Stephen Demuth. 2000. Ethnicity and Sentencing Outcomes in U.S. Federal Courts: Who is Punished More Harshly? *American Sociological Review* 65(5, October): 705-729.
- Taras, Ray and Rajat Ganguly. 2002. Ethnic Conflict on the World Stage. Chapter One in *Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension*. New York: Longman.
- Terkildsen, Nayda and David F. Damore, 1999. The Dynamics of Racialized Media Coverage in Congressional Elections. *The Journal of Politics* 61(3, August), 680-699.
- Wilson, Ernest J., III. 1985. Why Political Scientists Don't Study Black Politics, but Historians and Sociologists Do. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 18(3, Summer): 600-607.
- Woofter, T.J., Jr. 1929. Race in Politics: An Opportunity for Original Research. *Social Forces* 7(3, March): 435-438.
- X, Malcom. 1964. Statement of Basic Aims and Objectives of the Organization of Afro-American Unity. In *New Black Voices*, edited by Abraham Chapman (1972). New York: Mentor.

## **Suggested Readings**

### *Affirmative Action*

Goldman, Alan H. 1976. Affirmative Action. *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 5(2, Winter): 178-195.

Holzer, Harry and David Neumark. 1999. Are Affirmative Action Hires Less Qualified? Evidence from Employer-Employee Data on New Hires. *Journal of Labor Economics* 17(3, July): 534-569.

Holzer Harry and David Neumark. 2000. What Does Affirmative Action Do? *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 53(2, January): 240-271.

Kuklinski, James H., Paul M. Sniderman, Kathleen Knight, Thomas Piazza, Philip E. Tetlock, Gordon R. Lawrence, and Barbara Mellers. 1997. Racial Prejudice and Attitudes toward Affirmative Action. *American Journal of Political Science* 41(2, April): 402-419.

### *Comparative State/National Politics*

Allen, Sheila and Marie Macey. 1990. Race and Ethnicity in the European Context. *The British Journal of Sociology* 41(3, September): 375-393.

Hero, Rodney and Caroline Tolbert. 1996. A Racial/Ethnic Diversity Interpretation of Politics and Policy in the States of the U.S. *American Journal of Political Science* 40(3, August): 851-871.

Schneider, Mark. 1976. Migration, Ethnicity, and Politics: A Comparative State Analysis. *The Journal of Politics* 38(4, November): 938-962.

### *Criminal Justice*

Mirande, Alfredo. 1987. *Gringo Justice*. Southbend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

Weitzer, Ronald and Steven A. 2005. Tuch. Racially Biased Policing: Determinants of Citizen Perceptions. *Social Forces* 83(3): 1009-1030.

Welch, Susan, Michael Combs, and John Gruhl. 1988. Do Black Judges Make a Difference? *American Journal of Political Science* 32(1, February): 126-136.

### *Education*

Welch, Susan, Michael Combs, Lee Sigelman, and Timothy Bledsoe. 1997. Race or Place? Emerging Public Perspectives on Urban Education. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(3, September): 454-458.

Orfield, Gary, and John T. Yun. 1999. *Resegregation in American Schools*. Cambridge, MA: The Civil Rights Project, Harvard University.

### *Elections, Representation, Public Officials*

Button, James and David Hedge. 1996. Legislative Life in the 1990s: A Comparison of Black and White State Legislators. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 21(2, May): 199-218.

Hero, Rodney. 1987. The Election of Hispanics in City Government: An Examination of the Election of Federico Pena as Mayor of Denver. *The Western Political Quarterly* 40(1, March): 93-105.

Lublin, David. 1997. *The Paradox of Representation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

### *Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals*

Blasius, Mark. 1992. An Ethos of Lesbian and Gay Existence. *Political Theory* 20(4, November): 642-671.

Haider-Markel, Donald P., and Kenneth J. Meier. 1996. The Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights: Expanding the Scope of the Conflict. *The Journal of Politics* 58(2, May): 332-349.

### *Immigration*

Borjas, George J. 1995. The Economic Benefits from Immigration. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9(2, Spring): 3-22.

Fetzer, Joel S. 2000. Economic Self-Interest or Cultural Marginality? Anti-Immigration Sentiment and Nativist Political Movements in France, Germany and the USA. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 26(1): 5-23.

Marshall, Ray. 1984. Immigration: An International Economic Perspective. *International Migration Review* 18(3, Autumn): 593-612.

Massey, Douglas S. 1995. The New Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States. *Population and Development Review* 21(3, September): 631-652.

President's Council of Economic Advisors. 1990. The US Council of Economic Advisors on Labor Shortages, Worker Mobility, and Immigration. *Population and Development Review* 16(1, March): 193-198.

### *Racial Attitudes*

Huckfeldt, Robert, and John Sprague. 1988. Choice, Social Structure, and Political Information: The Information Coercion of Minorities. *American Journal of Political Science* 32(2, May): 467-482.

Morris, Irwin L. 2000. African American Voting on Proposition 1987: Rethinking the Prevalence of Interminority Conflict. *Political Research Quarterly* 53(1, March): 77-98.

Sniderman, Paul M., Edward G. Carmines, Geoffrey C. Layman, and Michael Carter. 1996. Beyond Race: Social Justice as a Race Neutral Ideal. *American Journal of Political Science* 40(1, February): 22-55.

### *Religion*

Gilbert, Geoff. 1997. Religious Minorities and Their Rights: A Problem of Approach. *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* 5: 97-134.

Habermas, Jürgen. 2003. Intolerance and Discrimination. *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 1 (1), 2-12.

Modood, Tariq. 1998. Anti-Essentialism, Multiculturalism and the 'Recongnition' of Religious Groups. *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 6(4): 378-399.

Zolberg, Aristide and Long Litt Woon. 1999. Why Islam Is Like Spanish: Cultural Incorporation in Europe and the United States. *Politics and Society* 27(1, March): 5-38.

### *Sports*

Evans, Arthur S., Jr. 1997. Blacks as Key Functionaries: A Study of Racial Stratification in Professional Sports. *Journal of Black Studies* 28(1, September): 43-59.

Kahn, Lawrence M. 1991. Discrimination in Professional Sports: A Survey of the Literature. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 44(3, April): 395-418.