U.S. Racial Politics: New Deal to the Present
Political Science 449/549
CRN: 35668

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Course description:
In this course, we will examine the ways that race shaped the major political dynamics in
the United States from the Great Depression to the present. We will analyze the
relationship of race politics to New Deal social policy; World War II, the Cold War, civil
rights and race liberation movements, the rise of the modern Right, immigration policy,
and current cross-ethnic political coalitions, the 2009 presidential election, and racial
politics in the Obama era.

Materials:
For PS449, There are two books for this course, available in the bookstore. The books
are The Unsteady March, by Philip Klinkner and Rogers Smith; and When Affirmative
Action Was White, by Ira Katznelson. PS 5549 will have one additional text: Lowndes,
Novkov and Warren, eds. Race and American Political Development. All other readings
will be available on Blackboard, and are indicated as such.

Requirements for 449:
1. Seven in-class quizzes. These quizzes will assess your comprehension of the
assigned reading, lectures and class discussions. Some questions will be given in
advance and you will prepare your answer to bring to class. The remaining
questions will be given in class. Your lowest score will be dropped. No make-up
quizzes are possible. (50% of final grade)

2. Midterm in-class exam (25% of final grade)

3. Final exam (25% of final grade)

4. Participation: Students will be expected to attend class and participate in class
discussions. Constructive, informed, respectful participation that contributes
directly to conversations about the course material will raise borderline grades;
lack of participation may result in lower grades.
Requirements for 549:
You will write one research paper (roughly 35000 words). The abstract for the paper will be due on Monday of Week Six, and I will hold individual meetings with you that week to talk them over. The final paper will be due Monday of finals week.

Policies:

Students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the professor soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Class attendance. You will be expected to attend class. If you miss a class day on which a quiz is given, you must bring a doctor’s note to re-take it. Unexcused absences will be taken into account in determining your class participation grade, regardless of the reason.

Regrading of materials. You may request re-grading of materials that the instructors have graded. If you wish to make such a request, contact me for a copy of the re-grading policy. You will be asked to provide a written explanation of why you wish to have the assignment regarded.

Plagiarism or cheating. This one’s simple: don’t do it. Don’t even think about doing it. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s words or ideas without giving the original author credit by citing him or her. If you use someone else’s language directly, you must use quotation marks. If you rely on another person’s ideas in creating your argument, you must provide a citation. This is obviously required for research papers, but I will expect careful attention to citation in the argumentative essays as well. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please contact me before you submit the assignment for grading. If you plagiarize or cheat in this class, the BEST outcome you can hope to achieve is a failing grade. Ignorance will not provide a defense to the application of this policy.

Week One: Introduction: Race as a Political Phenomenon
Wednesday, 9/30
Course introduction
- Omi and Winant, “On the Theoretical Status of Race”
- in-class Film: Race: the Power of an Illusion

Extra readings for 549:
Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, chapters 1 and 4

Week Two: Race and the New Deal
Monday, 10/5
- “The New Deal” from Alan Brinkley, American History: A Survey
- Katznelson, preface and chapter 2
Wednesday, 10/7
- Katznelson, chapters 3 and 4

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 7

**Week Three: World War Two**
Monday, 10/12
- Klinkner and Smith, chapters 5 and 6

Wednesday, 10/14
- Ronald Takaki, “The Watershed of World War II: Democracy and Race” from
- *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944)

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 8

**Week Four: Cold War Civil Rights**
Monday, 10/19
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 7
- Mary Dudziak, “Telling Stories about Race and Democracy” from *Cold War Civil Rights*.

Wednesday, 10/21
- Nikhil Pal Singh, “Decolonizing America” from *Black is a Country*
- Film: “Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power”

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Michael Rogin, “American political demonology”

**Week Five: Black Liberation and state response**
Monday, 10/26
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 8
- Martin Luther King, Jr., “Give Us the Ballot and We Will Transform the South”
- Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”

Wednesday, 10/28
- Lyndon B. Johnson's Commencement Address at Howard University: "To Fulfill These Rights"

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 11

**Week Six: The Politics of Backlash**
Monday, 11/2
- Naomi Murakawa, “The origins of the carceral crisis: racial order as “law and order in postwar American politics”

Wednesday, 11/4

**In-class midterm**
- William Connolly, “The Desire to Punish”

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 10

**Week Seven: Antidiscrimination, affirmative action, and colorblindness**
Monday, 11/9
- Katzenelson, chapter 6
- Brown, et al, “Color-blindness as Color Consciousness” in *Whitewashing Race*

Wednesday, 11/11
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 9

**Extra readings for 549:**
Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 12

**Week Eight: Race, immigration and coalition-building**
Monday, 11/16

Wednesday, 11/18

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Victoria Hattam, *In the Shadow of Race*, chapters 6 and 7

**Week Nine: The 2008 Presidential Election**
Monday, 11/23
- Richard Thompson Ford, “Barack is the New Black: Obama and the Promise/Threat of the Post-Civil Rights Era”

- David Sirota, “The Clinton Firewall”

Wednesday, 11/25

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Mike Davis, “Obama at Manassas”

**Week Ten: The future of race politics**
Monday, 11/30
-TBA

Wednesday, 12/4
-TBA

**Extra readings for 549:**
- Lowndes, Novkov, and Warren, Chapter 9

**Final exam:**
Tuesday, 12/8 10:15am