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, among other topics.

Materials:
There are two books and one packet for this course, all 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. Other readings not in the course packet will be available on Blackboard, and are indicated as such.

Requirements:
- Students are expected to attend all class sessions, having completed the readings and prepared to participate in class discussions.
- One in-class midterm exam, worth 35% of the final grade.
- One four-to-five page paper (double-spaced) worth 25% of the final grade.
- One take-home final exam worth 40% of the final grade.
- Please direct all initial email communication to Forrest Nabors.

There will be no late papers or make-up examinations without a note from a physician or the dean’s office. Neither can we reschedule examinations ahead of time. So, please review the schedule and plan accordingly.

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. Each student is permitted to miss two days of class per term with no questions asked and no penalties or reductions
in his or her class participation grade. Any classes missed beyond those two will be taken into account in determining your class participation grade, regardless of the reason.

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

**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.

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**Week One: Introduction: Race as a Political Phenomenon**

Monday  
Course Introduction  
- In-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Wednesday  
-Klinkner and Smith, Introduction and Chapter 4

**Week Two: Race and the New Deal**

Monday  
- Katznelson, chapters 1, 2 and 3

Wednesday  
- Katznelson, chapter 4

**Week Three: World War Two**

Monday  
- Klinkner and Smith, chapters 5 and 6  
- Katznelson, chapter 5

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

**Week Four: Cold War Civil Rights**

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

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

**Week Five: Black Liberation and state response**
**Monday**
- 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**
- Lyndon B. Johnson's Commencement Address at Howard University: "To Fulfill These Rights"

**Week Six: The Politics of Backlash**
**Monday**
**In-class midterm**

**Wednesday**
- William Connolly, “Fundamentalism in America”

**Week Seven: Politics and culture: inventing the underclass?**
**Monday**
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 9

**Wednesday**
- Adolph Reed, “The Underclass as Myth and Symbol: The Poverty of Discourse about Poverty.”
- Poverty of the Mind, By ORLANDO PATTERSON, New York Times March 26, 2006

**Week Eight: Race and Immigration: Mobilization and Countermobilization**
**Monday**
- Stephen Steinberg, “Immigration, African Americans and Race Discourse,” and responses
Wednesday
- Ian Haney Lopez, "Race and Erasures: The Salience of Race to Latino/as."

**Paper due**

**Week Nine: Racial Initiatives in the states**

Monday

Wednesday
- Daniel Martinez HoSang, "‘De-racing’ Civil Rights: The 2003 California Racial Data Initiative and the Future of Political Discourse on Race"

**Week Ten: The future of race politics**

Monday
- Victoria Hattam, “Rhetorics of Race: Barack Obama and the Politics of Difference in the U.S.” *Blackboard*
- Klinkner and Smith conclusion
- Katznelson. Conclusion

Wednesday
- course wrap-up

**Take-home final exam distributed**

**Final exams due Wednesday, June 13**