POLITICAL SCIENCE 5
ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
El Camino College · Fall 2009 · Section 2810 · M 6-9pm · Social Sciences Bldg. Room 206

Professor PJ Gagajena
PJGagajena@yahoo.com · (310) 480-8249 · Office: SS 202B (Office hours set by appointment only)

Texts: Takaki, Ronald, A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America
Browning, Marshall & Tabb (BMT), Racial Politics in American Cities, 3rd Edition

Online: Hair, Penda, Louder Than Words: Lawyers, Communities and the Struggle for Justice, www.advancementproject.org/pdfs/louderthanwords.pdf

Course Objectives:
• Assess the role of cultural identity in shaping norms and values toward the political process in the United States with emphasis on the role of racial and ethnic identities.
• Describe and evaluate formal government actions, legislation, court decisions, and executive orders as they relate to race and ethnicity in the political process.
• Critically examine theories of assimilation, pluralism, Pluralist Nationalism, and interest groups regarding race within the political policy making process.
• Assess the impact of media portrayal of various racial/ethnic groups on political policies and processes in American society.
• Describe and analyze the impact of current and past immigration policies on different ethnic groups in the United States.
• Assess the impact of different forms of discrimination experience by various ethnic groups in the political process.
• Compare and contrast public policies that influence race and ethnic relations in America.
• Evaluate the struggle for inclusion in the democratic system by minority groups within the dynamics of urban politics.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course, the student should be able to identify concepts, theories, and policies of racial politics in America. The student should be able to describe the experiences of historically under-represented ethnic groups and their struggle for participation in the American political system.

Schedule: Subject to change at any time.

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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Papers / Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Holiday – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>Takaki</td>
<td>Ch1 – Ch3:1-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 21</td>
<td>Native American History</td>
<td>Takaki</td>
<td>Ch4:79-105, Ch9:225-245</td>
<td>Issue Letter Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Irish &amp; Jewish American History</td>
<td>Takaki</td>
<td>Ch6:139-165, Ch11:277-310</td>
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7Oct 12 Chicana/o History Takaki Ch7:166-190, Ch12:311-339
8Oct 19 Asian American History Takaki Ch8:191-221, Ch10:246-276
9Oct 26 Midterm Midterm Exam
10Nov 2 Grassroots Organizing Hair Ch2:38-59, Ch4:82-101
11Nov 9 Racial Politics in Cities BMT Intro:3-16, Ch1:17-47
12Nov 16 Los Angeles & New York BMT Ch2:51-75, Ch4:115-139
13Nov 23 Chicago & Miami BMT Ch5:143-163, Ch10:281-306
14Nov 30 Coalition Politics BMT Ch12:333-354
15Dec 7 Coalition Politics BMT Ch13:357-385
16Dec 14 Final

**Issue Letter:** You are required to submit a 1-2 page letter about an issue. You are encouraged to write about a racial/ethnic issue but it is not required. Any issue is acceptable. It must be addressed to the proper decision-making authority (ex. elected official, board, commission) that has the power to resolve your issue. Please type in a letter format with 1” margins on all sides and in 12pt font, single-spaced. Late papers will be reduced by one letter grade each day it is late - no exceptions.

**Grading:** You are responsible for keeping track of your own grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE LETTER</th>
<th>25 Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>MIDTERM</td>
<td>50 Pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>100 Pts</td>
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**Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will test your knowledge about the experiences of historically under-represented ethnic groups in America as well as concepts, theories, and policies of racial/ethnic
politics as covered in *A Different Mirror.*

**Final Exam:** The final exam will test your knowledge of concepts and strategies in urban politics used by ethnic groups to participate in the political systems of Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Miami as covered in *Racial Politics in American Cities.*

15 Pts

**ATTENDANCE** 10 Pts

**TOTAL** 200 Pts

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities are at the discretion of the instructor. Suggestions are welcome.
**Student Responsibilities:** It is your responsibility to arrive on time and attend class. I reserve the right to “drop” a student from class for two absences (whether it is excused or unexcused), excessive tardiness or early departures, or any type of classroom disruption. Since this class meets only once per week, it is imperative that you attend and stay for the entire class session. If you miss a class or are late, it is your responsibility to get any information about announcements, assignments, and/or material covered. It is highly encouraged that you participate in classroom discussion and exercises. It is your responsibility to know the class drop deadlines and information. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, PDAs, and musical devices during class. Do not wait until the last minute if you are having trouble in class. Please notify me as soon as possible to resolve any issues.

**Readings and Classroom Environment:** This course requires a lot of reading and it is critical that you keep up with the reading assignments every week in order to comprehend class lecture. Falling behind will negatively affect your performance on assignments, exams and classroom participation. I encourage you to read about 10-15 pages per day. I treat the classroom as a safe space for diverse opinions. There may be viewpoints you don’t agree with but please treat others with respect. I encourage critiques of opinions and viewpoints but I will not tolerate personal attacks. This may be one of the rare opportunities that you will engage in real and substantive conversation with people in your life so be open and don’t be afraid to speak up!

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