

AMERICAN POLITICS: DIFFERENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Spring 2010

Political Science 123
Haverford College

Steve McGovern
Phone: 896-1058 (w)
Email: smcgover@haverford.edu

Office: Hall 105
Hours: MW 11-12
(and by appointment)

Course Description

This course considers the nature of difference and discrimination in American politics and government with attention to class, race, gender, sexual orientation and their intersection. We begin by assessing contemporary attitudes and beliefs regarding the nation's progress or lack of progress in achieving its goals of ensuring justice and equality for all of its citizens. We then examine how groups that have experienced extensive discrimination have sought to promote their interests and expand their power through protest, electoral politics, and engagement with the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. We conclude by analyzing various public policy outcomes affecting such groups. Central questions posed by the course include: How does the political system generate and maintain inequality? To what extent does it offer the people of color, women, gays and lesbians, and the poor opportunities for advancement and empowerment?

Course Requirements

Class attendance & participation	20%
Two papers (5 pages each)	40%
Final paper (10 pages)	40%

Required Texts

Michael K. Brown, et al., *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society* (University of California Press, 2003)
Sheryll Cashin, *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class Are Undermining the American Dream* (Public Affairs, 2004)
Craig A. Rimmerman, *The Lesbian and Gay Movements: Assimilation or Liberation?* (Westview, 2008)

All other assigned readings may be accessed through Blackboard.

Topics and Readings

Week 1

- I. Introduction
 - A. Welcome

B. Transformations Within the American Polity

Michael B. Katz and Mark J. Stern, "What America Is Becoming," in *One Nation Divisible: What America Was and What It Is Becoming*

Weeks 2-3

II. Categories of Marginalization in American Politics

A. Race and Ethnicity

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom, "Conclusion: One Nation, Indivisible" in *American in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*

Michael K. Brown, et al., "Race Preferences and Race Privileges" and "Of Fish and Water: Perspectives on Racism and Privilege" (B, Intro and Ch.1)

John McWhorter, "Introduction" in *Winning the Race: Beyond the Crisis in Black America*

Ellis Cose, "A Hostile and Welcoming Workplace," *The Rage of a Privileged Class*

William Julius Wilson, "Structural and Cultural Forces That Contribute to Racial Inequality" in *More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*

B. Gender

Nancy E. McGlen and Karen O'Connor, "Women's Political Participation" in *Women, Politics, and American Society*

Gail Collins, "The New Millennium" in *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*

Amanda Fortini, "The 'Bitch' and the 'Ditz'," *New York*, November 16, 2008

C. Sexual Orientation

Paul R. Brewer, "Public Opinion about Gays" in *Value War: Public Opinion and the Politics of Gay Rights*

D. Wealth

Steven Greenhouse, "Worked Over and Overworked," *The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker*

David Leonhardt, "The College Dropout Boom," in *Class Matters*

Weeks 3-4

III. Movements and Countermovements

A. The Black Movement

Aldon Morris, "Centuries of Black Protest: Its Significance for America and the World," in *Race in America*, eds., Herbert Hill and James E. Jones

Judson L. Jeffries, ed., "Introduction: A Retrospective Look at the Black Power Movement," in *Black Power: In the Belly of the Beast*

Film in class: "Eyes on the Prize: Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More"

B. The Women's Movement

Jo Freeman, "From Suffrage to Women's Liberation: Feminism in 20th Century America" in *Women: A Feminist Perspective*, ed. Jo Freeman, 5th ed.

Vivian Gornick, "Consciousness" in *Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader*, ed. Barbara A. Crow

"The Redstocking Manifesto," in *Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader*, ed. Barbara A. Crow

Deborah Siegel, "Postfeminist Panache" in *Sisterhood Interrupted: From Radical Women to Grrls Gone Wild*

Veronica Chambers, "Betrayal Feminism," in *Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation*, ed. Barbara Findlen

C. The Gay and Lesbian Movement

Craig Rimmerman, "The Assimilationist and Liberationist Strategies in Historical Context" (R, Ch.2)

Ritch Savin-Williams, "The New Gay Teen: Shunning Labels," *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, November/December 2005

Sean Cahill, "The Anti-Gay Movement" in *The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage*, eds. Craig A. Rimmerman and Clyde Wilcox

First Paper Due

Weeks 5-6

IV. Political Parties and Elections

A. Race and Elections

Katherine Tate, "The New Black Politics," in *From Protest to Politics: The New Black Voters in American Elections*

Paul Frymer, "Introduction" in *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America*

Andra Gillespie, "The Third Wave: Assessing the Post-Civil Rights Cohort of Black Elected Leadership" in *Beyond the Boundaries: A New Structure of Ambition in African American Politics*, ed. Georgia A. Persons

John B. Judis, "The Big Race: Obama and the Psychology of the Color Barrier," *The New Republic*, May 28, 2008

Alan L. Abramowitz, "The Triumph of Diversity: Barack Obama, Race, and the 2008 Presidential Elections" in *Principles and Practice of American Politics*, 4th ed., eds. Samuel Kernell and Steven S. Smith

Reuel R. Rogers, "Race-Based Coalitions Among Minority Groups: Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and African-Americans in New York City," *Urban Affairs Review* (January 2004)

Kristi Andersen, "Parties, Organizations and Political Incorporation: Immigrants in Six U.S. Cities" in *Civic Hopes and Political Realities: Immigrants, Community Organizations, and Political Engagement*, eds. S. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Irene Bloemraad

B. Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Electoral Politics

Georgia Duerst-Lahti, "Presidential Elections: Gendered Spaces and the Case of 2004" in *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, eds. Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox

Richard L. Fox, "Congressional Elections: Where Are We on the Road to Gender Parity?" in *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, eds. Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox

Tina Fetner, "Where's the Party? Entering the Republican and Democratic Folds," in *How the Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism*

Week 7

V. Interest Groups

Maryann Barakso, "The Politics of Decision Making in the National Organization for Women" in *The U.S. Women's Movement in Global Perspective*, ed. Lee Ann Banaszak

Craig A. Rimmerman, "The Conflict Over HIV/AIDS Policy" (R, Ch.3)

Dara Z. Strolovich, "A More Level Playing Field or a New Mobilization of Bias? Interest Groups and Advocacy for the Disadvantaged" in *Interest Group Politics*, 7th ed., eds. Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis

Film in class: "Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill: Public Hearing, Private Pain"

Week 8

SPRING BREAK

Week 9

VI. The Legislative Branch

Michael K. Brown, et al., "Color-Blindness as Color Consciousness: Voting Rights and Political Equality" (B, Ch.6)

Kerry L. Haynie, "African Americans and the New Politics of Inclusion: A Representational Dilemma?" in *Congress Reconsidered*, 8th ed., eds. Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce I. Oppenheimer

John D. Griffin and Brian Newman, "Differences in Policy Representation" in *Minority Report: Evaluating Political Equality in America*

Carol M. Swain, "The Congressional Black Caucus and the Impact of Immigration on African American Unemployment" in *Debating Immigration*, ed. Carol M. Swain

Karin L. Tamerius, "Sex, Gender, and Leadership in the Representation of Women" in *Gender Power, Leadership, and Governance*, eds. Georgia Duerst-Lahti and Rita Mae Kelly

Second Paper Due

Week 10

VII. The Executive Branch

David Canon and Katherine Cramer Walsh, "George W. Bush and the Politics of Gender and Race" in *The George W. Bush Presidency: Appraisals and Prospects*, eds. Colin Campbell and Bert Rockman

Michael Eric Dyson, "Hurricane and Hesitation" and "Does George W. Bush Care about Black People?" in *Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster*

Adolph R. Reed, Jr., "Obama's Centrism Is No Surprise," *The Progressive*, January 2009

Testimony of Joseph Rich, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Oversight Hearing on the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, House Judiciary Subcommittee, December 3, 2009

Georgia Duerst-Lahti, "Reconceiving Theories of Power: Consequences of Masculinism in the Executive Branch," in *The Other Elites: Women, Politics, and Power in the Executive Branch*, eds. MaryAnne Borrelli and Janet M. Martin

Craig Rimmerman, "'Don't Ask, Don't Tell': Policy Perspectives on the Military Ban" (R, Ch.4)

Weeks 11-12

VIII. The Judicial Branch

A. Antidiscrimination Law

Angelo N. Ancheta, "Discrimination and Antidiscrimination Law" in *Race, Rights, and the Asian American Experience*

B. Discrimination and Race

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)

Sheryll Cashin, "Schools: Separate and Unequal" (C, Ch.6)

Martha Minow, "We're All for Equality in U.S. School Reforms: But What Does It Mean?" in *Just Schools*

C. Discrimination and Wealth

Jonathan Kozol, "Children of the City Invincible: Camden, New Jersey" in *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*

San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez (1973)

Film in class: "Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story"

D. Discrimination and Gender

Karen O'Connor and Patricia Clark, "Women's Rights and Legal Wrongs: The U.S. Supreme Court and Sex Discrimination" in *Women in Politics*, ed. Lois Duke Whitaker

Roe v. Wade (1973)

Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992)

Gerald N. Rosenberg, "The Real World of Constitutional Rights: The Supreme Court and the Implementation of the Abortion Decisions" in *Principles and Practice of American Politics*

E. Discrimination and Sexual Orientation

Bowers v. Hardwick (1986)

Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

Susan Gluck Mezey, "Litigating Equality and Privacy Rights" in *Queers in Court: Gay Rights Law and Public Policy*

Weeks 13-15

IX. Public Policy

A. Housing and Neighborhoods

Sheryll Cashin, Chs.1-4 (skim Ch.5)

B. Poverty

Sheryll Cashin, "The Cost of the Ghetto," (C, Ch.7)

Michael K. Brown, et al., "The Bankruptcy of Virtuous Markets: Racial Inequality, Poverty, and 'Individual Failure'" (B, Ch.2)

C. Affirmative Action

Ira Katznelson, "Doctor of Laws" and "White Veterans Only" in *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America*

Michael K. Brown, et al., "Civil Rights and Racial Equality: Employment Discrimination Law, Affirmative Action, and Quotas" (B, Ch.5)

Michael K. Brown, et al., "Keeping Blacks in Their Place: Race, Education, and Testing" (B, Ch.3)

D. Immigration

Reed Ueda, "Immigration in Global Historical Perspective" in *The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration Since 1965*, eds. Mary C. Waters and Reed Ueda

Aristide R. Zolberg, "Immigration Control Policy: Law and Implementation" in *The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration Since 1965*, eds. Mary C. Waters and Reed Ueda

Katherine Fennelly, "Prejudice Toward Immigrants in the Midwest" in *New Faces in New Places: The Changing Geography of American Immigration*, ed. Douglas S. Massey

Noah Pickus and Peter Skerry, "Good Neighbors and Good Citizens: Beyond the Legal-Illegal Immigration Debate" in *Debating Immigration*, ed. Carol M. Swain

E. Same-Sex Marriage

Craig Rimmerman, "Jilted at the Altar: The Debate over Same-Sex Marriage" (R, Ch.5)

F. Crime

James Q. Wilson, "Crime" in *Beyond the Color Line: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*, eds. Abigail Thernstrom and Stephan Thernstrom

Michael K. Brown, et al., "Been in the Pen So Long: Race, Crime, and Justice" (B, Ch.4)

Film in class: "The OJ Verdict"

Week 15

X. Conclusion

Jennifer Hochschild, "'Who Cares Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?': Narrowing the Enduring Divisions of Race" in *The Fractious Nation? Unity and Division in Contemporary American Life*, ed. Jonathan Rieder

Ward Connerly, "One Nation, Indivisible" in *Beyond the Color Line: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*, eds. Abigail Thernstrom and Stephan Thernstrom

Sheryll Cashin, "What to Do about It" (C, Ch.9)

Craig Rimmerman, "The Movement's Future" (R, Ch.6)

Third Paper Due