

AMERICAN POLITICS: DIFFERENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Spring 2006

Political Science 123
Haverford College

Steve McGovern
Phone: 896-1058 (w)
658-9750 (h)
e-mail: smcgover@haverford.edu

Office: Hall 105
Hours: T 9-11
(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 participation in 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	40%
Final paper	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)
- Ronald D. Elving, *Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Law* (Simon & Schuster, 1995)
- Jonathan Rieder, ed., *The Fractious Nation? Unity and Division in Contemporary American Life* (University of California Press, 2003)
- Craig A. Rimmerman, Kenneth D. Wald, and Clyde Wilcox, eds., *The Politics of Gay Rights* (University of Chicago Press, 2000)
- Abigail Thernstrom and Stephan Thernstrom, eds., *Beyond the Color Line: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity* (Hoover Institution Press, 2002)

All other assigned readings may be accessed through Blackboard.

Topics and Readings

Week 1

I. Introduction

A. Welcome

B. Unity and Division Within the American Polity

Jonathan Rieder, "Getting a Fix on Fragmentation: 'Breakdown' as Estimation Error, Rhetorical Strategy, and Organizational Accomplishment" (R, Ch.1)

Richard Bernstein, "The Fetish of Difference" (R, Ch.2)

Martha Minow, "Fragments or Ties? The Defense of Difference" (R, Ch.3)

Paul DiMaggio, "The Myth of Culture War: The Disparity Between Private Opinion and Public Politics" (R, Ch.4)

Weeks 2-3

II. Marginalized Groups 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)

Everett C. Ladd, "What Americans Think About Race and Ethnicity" (TT, pp. 53-67)

Finis Welch, "Half Full or Half Empty? The Changing Economic Status of African Americans, 1967-1996" (TT, pp. 181-200)

B. Gender

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

Lisa Belkin, "The Opt-Out Revolution," *The New York Times Magazine*, October 26, 2003

C. Sexual Orientation

Clyde Wilcox and Robin Wolpert, "Gay Rights in the Public Sphere: Public Opinion on Gay and Lesbian Equality" (RWW, Ch.16)

D. Wealth

Paul Krugman, "For Richer," *The New York Times Magazine*, October 20, 2002

Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady, "The Big Tilt:

Participatory Inequality in America," in *The American Prospect*, May-June 1997

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
Film in class: "Eyes on the Prize: No Easy Walk, 1961-1963"

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.
Jane Mansbridge, "Why We Lost the ERA" in *Why We Lost the ERA*
Veronica Chambers, "Betrayal Feminism," in *Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation*, ed. Barbara Findlen
Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "What Is Feminism?" in *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future*

C. The Gay and Lesbian Movement

John D'Emilio, "Cycles of Change, Questions of Strategy: The Gay and Lesbian Movement after 50 Years" (RWW, Ch.2)
Keith O. Boykin, "Where Rhetoric Meets Reality: The Role of Black Lesbians and Gays in 'Queer' Politics" (RWW, Ch.4)
Jean Reith Schroedel and Pamela Fiber, "Lesbian and Gay Policy Priorities: Commonality and Difference" (RWW, Ch.5)
John C. Green, "Antigay: Varieties of Opposition to Gay Rights" (RWW, Ch.6)

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*
Tamar Jacoby, "From Protest to Politics: Still an Issue for Black Leadership" (TT, pp. 369-380)
Todd Gitlin, "The Rise of 'Identity Politics'" in *Race and Ethnicity in the United States*, ed. Stephen Steinberg
Robin D. G. Kelly, "Identity Politics and Class Struggle" in *Race and Ethnicity in the United States*, ed. Stephen Steinberg
Stephen Steinberg, "The Liberal Retreat from Race" in *Race and Ethnicity in the United States*, ed. Stephen Steinberg
William Julius Wilson, "Bridging the Racial Divide" in *The Bridge Over the Racial Divide: Rising Inequality and Coalition Politics*

Guillermo J. Grenier and Max Castro, "Blacks and Cubans in Miami: The Negative Consequences of the Cuban Enclave on Ethnic Relations" in *Governing American Cities: Inter-Ethnic Coalitions, Competition, and Conflict*, ed. Michael Jones-Correa

B. Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Elections

Richard E. Matland and David C. King, "Women as Candidates in Congressional Elections" in *Women Transforming Congress*, ed. Cindy Simon Rosenthal
Georgia Duerst-Lahti, "The Bottleneck: Women Becoming Candidates" in *Women and Elective Office*, eds. Sue Thomas and Clyde Wilcox
Todd Donovan, Jim Wenzel, and Shaun Bowler, "Direct Democracy and Gay Rights Initiatives after *Romer*" (RWW, Ch.8)

C. Topical Issues: Campaign Finance and Political Redistricting

Charles Lewis, "Introduction," *The Buying of the President: 2004*
Jeffrey Toobin, "The Great Election Grab," *The New Yorker*, December 8, 2003

Week 7

V. Interest Groups

E. E. Schattschneider, Excerpt from *The Semisovereign People*
Elizabeth Drew, "The Money Culture" in *The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why*
John B. Judis, "The Pressure Elite: Inside the Narrow World of Advocacy Politics" in *The American Prospect Reader in American Politics*, ed. Walter Dean Burnham
Roberto Suro, Excerpt from *Strangers Among Us*
Craig A. Rimmerman, "Beyond Political Mainstreaming: Reflections on Lesbian and Gay Organizations and the Grassroots" (RWW, Ch.3)
Ronald D. Elving, *Conflict and Compromise*, Chs.1-6
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)
Carol M. Swain, "The Future of Black Representation" in *Race and Ethnicity in the United States*, ed. Stephen Steinberg
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

Colton C. Campbell and Roger H. Davidson, "Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Congressional Arena" (RWW, Ch.14)
Ronald D. Elving, *Conflict and Compromise*, Chs.7-10, 14-15 (skim Chs. 11-13)

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
Philip A. Klinkner, "Bill Clinton and the Politics of the New Liberalism," in *Without Justice for All: The New Liberalism and Our Retreat from Racial Equality*, ed. Adolph R. Reed, Jr.
E.J. Dionne Jr., "Shaking Off the Past: Third Ways, Fourth Ways, and the Urgency of Politics" (R, Ch.14)
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
Joseph A. Ferrara, "A Government That Looks Like America?" in *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Government?* ed., Stephen J. Wayne

Second Paper Due

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*
Eugene Volokh, "Racial and Ethnic Classifications in American Law" (TT, pp. 309-318)

B. Discrimination and Race

Sheryll Cashin, "Schools: Separate and Unequal" (C, Ch.6)
David J. Armor and Christine H. Rossell, "Desegregation and Resegregation in the Public Schools" (TT, pp. 219-258)
Kevin Gaines, "The Ambivalence of Citizenship: African-American Intellectuals in Search of Community" (R, Ch.10)

C. Discrimination and Wealth

Jonathan Kozol, "Children of the City Invincible: Camden, New Jersey" in *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*
Abigail Thernstrom, "The Racial Gap in Academic Achievement" (TT, pp. 259-276)
Clint Bolick, "Schools That Work for Minority Students" (TT, pp. 277-291)

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

E. Abortion

Barbara Hinkson Craig and David M. O'Brien, "Roe v. Wade, the Burger Court, and American Politics," and "Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, the Rehnquist Court, and American Politics" in *Abortion and American Politics*

Film in class: "The Last Abortion Clinic"

F. Discrimination and Sexual Orientation

Sarah E. Brewer, David Kaib, and Karen O'Connor, "Sex and the Supreme Court: Gays, Lesbians, and Justice" (RWW, Ch.15)
Lawrence v. Texas (2003)

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)

Douglas J. Besharov and Andrew West, "African American Marriage Patterns" (TT, pp. 95-114)

Theda Skocpol, "Social Provision and Civic Community: Beyond Fragmentation" (R, Ch.11)

C. Affirmative Action

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)

Martin Trow, "Preferential Admissions in Higher Education" (TT, pp. 293-305)

D. Immigration

Mary C. Waters, "Once Again, Strangers on Our Shores" (R, Ch.6)

Cecilia Munoz, "Expelling Newcomers: The Eclipse of Constitutional Community" (R, Ch.7)

Douglas S. Massey, "The United States in the World Community: The Limits of National Sovereignty" (R, Ch.8)

Linda Chavez, "The New Politics of Hispanic Assimilation" (TT, pp.383-390)

E. Sexual Orientation and Public Policy

Mark Carl Rom, "Gays and AIDS: Democratizing Disease?" (RWW, Ch.10)

Francine D'Amico, "Sex/uality and Military Service" (RWW, Ch.11)

James W. Button, Barbara A. Rienzo, and Kenneth D. Wald, "The Politics of Gay Rights at the Local and State Level" (RWW, Ch.12)

F. Crime

James Q. Wilson, "Crime" (TT, pp.115-126)

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

Film in class: "The OJ Simpson Verdict"

Week 15

X. Conclusion

Jennifer Hochschild, "'Who Cares Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?': Narrowing the Enduring Divisions of Race" (R, Ch.9)

Ward Connerly, "One Nation, Indivisible" (TT, pp.415-423)

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

Third Paper Due