

AMERICAN POLITICS: DIFFERENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Spring 2009

Political Science 123
Haverford College

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Hours: W 1-3
(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 (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)
- Ron Haskins, *Work over Welfare: The Inside Story of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law* (Brookings Institution Press, 2006)
- Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Inequality and American Democracy: What We Know and What We Need to Learn* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2005)
- Craig A. Rimmerman, *The Lesbian and Gay Movements: Assimilation or Liberation?* (Westview, 2008)
- 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

Hua Hsu, "The End of White America?" *The Atlantic Monthly*, January/February 2009

Walter Benn Michaels, "The Trouble with Diversity," *The American Prospect*,
September 2006

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

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

Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, "American Democracy in an Era of Rising
Inequality" (J&S, Ch.1)

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

Alan Jenkins, "Inequality, Race, and Remedy," *The American Prospect*, May 2007

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: 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.
Suzanne Staggenborg and Verta Taylor, "Whatever Happened to the Women's
Movement?" *Mobilization*, February 2005
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*
Tamar Jacoby, "From Protest to Politics: Still an Issue for Black Leadership" (TT, pp.
369-380)
Ruy Teixeira, "Beyond Polarization? The Future of Red, Blue, and Purple America" in
Red, Blue & Purple America: The Future of Election Demographics, ed. Ruy
Teixeira
Matt Bai, "Post-Race: What Would a Black President Mean for Black Politics?" *The
New York Times Magazine*, August 10, 2008

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

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

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

Ben Ehrenreich, "Anatomy of a Failed Campaign," *The Advocate*, December 16, 2008

C. Inequality in American Politics: An Overview

Kay Lehman Schlozman, Benjamin I. Page, Sidney Verba, and Morris P. Fiorina, "Inequalities of Political Voice" (J&S, Ch.2)

Week 7

V. Interest Groups

Larry M. Bartels, Hugh Heclo, Rodney E. Hero, and Lawrence R. Jacobs, "Inequality and American Governance" (J&S, Ch.3)

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

Benjamin Marquez, "Voces Unidas: The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice" in *Constructing Identities in Mexican-American Political Organizations: Choosing Issues, Taking Sides*

Ron Haskins, *Work over Welfare*, Chs.1-5

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
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
Ron Haskins, *Work over Welfare*, Chs. 6-10 (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
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
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)
Ron Haskins, *Work over Welfare*, Ch.14

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)

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)
Ron Haskins, *Work over Welfare*, Ch. 15

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

Film in class: "The Last Abortion Clinic"

E. Discrimination and Sexual Orientation

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)

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

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" in *The Fractious Nation? Unity and Division in Contemporary American Life*, ed. Jonathan Rieder

E. Sexual Orientation and Public Policy

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

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"

G. Overview

Jacob S. Hacker, Suzanne Mettler, and Dianne Pinderhughes, "Inequality and Public Policy" (J&S, Ch.4)

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" (TT, pp. 415-423)

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

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

Third Paper Due