

PS141D: Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics  
Fall 2006

**Course web site: enter through BlackBoard Portal**

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Office: 402 Perkins Library  
Hours: Monday 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.,  
Wednesday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. and by appointment  
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**Objective**

This course is about the continuing importance of race and ethnicity in American politics, and the politics (historical, legal, attitudinal, and behavioral) of four of the United States' principal racial minority groups--blacks (African Americans), Latinos, Asians and to a lesser extent, American Indians. The course will describe and analyze how the structures of the American political system and its present operation seriously disadvantage blacks, Latinos, Asian Americans and Indian peoples as they attempt to gain the full benefits of American society. Other aspects of the black, Latino, Asian and Indian peoples experience will be discussed to give a more balanced perspective of black, Latino, Asian and Indian peoples participation in the American political arena. For example, the course will describe and analyze how and in what ways the structures and functions of the Presidency, Congress, and the bureaucracy affect the aspirations of these four groups.

The course will also be concerned with the role of black/Latino/Asian/Indian pressure groups, black/Latino/Asian participation in political parties, the influence of political structures on black/Latino/Asian representation, and the relationship of blacks/Latinos/Asians to bureaucracy at all levels of government. Additional discussions will focus on urban politics. In this respect, the role of minority mayors as the new urban managers and the effects of select public policies on blacks/Latinos/Asians in urban America will also be explored. Also, within the urban context, the increasing tensions between blacks, Latinos, and Asians will be analyzed.

**Required Texts**

(All books should be in the Duke University Book Store)

Paula D. McClain and Joseph Stewart, Jr., *"Can We All Get Along?" Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Westview Press, 2006.

Lucius J. Barker, Mack H. Jones, and Katherine Tate. *African Americans and the American Political System*, 4th. ed. Prentice Hall, 1998.

John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America: Community, Culture, and Interests*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

Lien, Pei-te, M. Margaret Conway, and Janelle Wong, *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Wilkins, David E., *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Lanham,

MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David N. Tabb. *Racial Politics in American Cities*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Longman Publishers, 2003.

Several journal articles are also required. These articles are available on the Course Blackboard site under Electronic Reserve. You should download the articles so that you have a hard copy to refer to as you prepare for exams.

#### Course Requirements

1. Complete all required reading assignments for each class meeting and do any additional appropriate optional readings.
2. Take an in-class mid-term examination, and an in-class final examination. The mid-term is worth 20 percent of the total grade; the final examination is worth 30 percent of the total grade.
3. Write three short, 7 page (exclusive of title page and bibliography) papers. The topics and due dates of each are listed below.

#### First paper (Due Wednesday, September 13)

Theoretical frameworks are essential foundations for the serious study of any area of political science. Various frameworks have been used to study black, Latino and Asian American politics. In this paper discuss (a) your understanding of the importance of theoretical frameworks to the study of black, Latino, and Asian politics; and (b) compare and contrasts two approaches that have been used to study black, Latino, and/or Asian politics either singularly or in combination.

#### Second paper (Due Wednesday, October 11)

Choose one area of political participation, e.g., ideology, voting, party identification, group cohesion, interest groups, or one of the other areas discussed, and compare and contrast the behavior of blacks, Latinos (choose one Latino group), Asians (choose one Asian group) or American Indians, although research and data are limited, on that particular dimension.

#### Third paper (Due Monday, November 27) Choice of two topics:

1. Choose one institution, e.g., Presidency, Congress, Supreme Court, the bureaucracy, and discuss the importance, either positive or negative or both, on the aspirations of one of the groups for full inclusion in the political process;

**OR**

2. Discuss the significance of urban politics for black, Latino, and Asian aspirations to elective office. In general, have these groups been incorporated into the political structures of urban governmental systems? After a general discussion of the question, feel free to use specific examples for illustrative purposes.

These papers should be typed, follow an accepted social science footnote and bibliographic style (**please do not use the MLA style**), and be no more than 7 pages, exclusive of title page and bibliography. The papers will be worth 40 percent of the total grade. **The papers are due on the date specified. A**

**penalty of five (5) points per day will be assessed on late papers. Papers will be considered late as of 4:00pm on the date due. If you do not turn in your paper during class or discussion, it should NOT be pushed under the professor's door. Papers should be taken to the main office (326 Perkins Library), ask a staff person to write the date and time on the paper, and to place the paper in my mailbox.**

A paper with helpful hints for the writing of papers and bibliographic formats may be found in the Documents section of the course site on BlackBoard.

Papers will be graded on the following standards for evaluation:

- Use of language and writing;
- Organization of paper and format of essay;
- Consistency and use of logic;
- Use of literature;
- Conceptual formulation;
- Substantive value;
- Originality of research;
- Depth of scholarship

4. Discussion Sections - 10 percent of final grade. You are expected to attend both class and discussion sections, and both will be counted as part of the participation grade. The teaching assistant will explain section requirements.

5. In order to receive a grade for the course, **all** assignments and examinations must be completed. If all assignments are not completed, the grade for the course will be an F, regardless of the grades on the other assignments.

6 Duke University is governed by an Honor Code which all students sign upon admission. I expect the Code to be observed. As such, the pledge along with your signature must appear on all written work, including exams. No work will be accepted that is not pledged.

### **Examinations**

1. Mid-term examination, Monday, October 16.
2. Final examination, Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

### **Grading**

Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	30%
Papers	40%
Discussion sections	10%

**Course Calendar (Unless otherwise indicated all readings are required)  
ER=Electronic Reserve**

August 28, 30, Sept. 4, 6, 11	<p>Introduction to course and Theoretical Perspectives and Frameworks</p> <p>McClain and Stewart, Preface to 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Chapter 1, and pp. 59-61.  Barker, Jones, and Tate, Chapters 1 and 3  Garcia, Chapters 1 and 2  Wilkins, Note on Terminology and Introduction.  Suzuki, "Education and the Socialization of Asian Americans: A Revisionist Analysis of the 'Model Minority' Thesis". (ER)</p>
Sept.13 18, 20, and 25	<p>Historical Perspectives and Socioeconomic Status</p> <p>McClain and Stewart, Chapter 2, Timelines on Groups  Barker, Jones, and Tate, Chapter 2  Garcia, Chapter 3 and 4  Wilkins, Chapters 1, 2 and 9.  Estrada, et. al, "Chicanos in the United States: A History of Exploitation and Resistance." (ER)  Torres, "From Exiles to Minorities: The Politics of Cuban Americans." (ER)  Rodriguez, "Colonial Relationship: Migration and History."(ER)  Fong, "The History of Asians in America."(ER)</p>
September 27, October 2, 4, and 11	<p>Black/Latino/Asian/Indian peoples Political Participation</p> <p>McClain and Stewart, Chapter 3  "African American a Term of Debate" (Class Website Blackboard)  Barker, Jones, and Tate, Chapters 4, 7, 8 and 9  Garcia, Chapter 4, 5, 6 &amp; 7  Wilkins, Chapters 3, 7 and 8.  Fong, "The Final Frontier: Asian American Political Empowerment."(ER)  Lien at al., Chapters 1-6.</p>
October 6-10	Fall Break (Classes resume Wednesday, October 11, 2006)
October 16	Mid-Term examination
October 18, 23, 25, and 30	<p>Blacks/Latinos/Asians/Indian Peoples and National Politics:  Presidency/Executive and Congress</p> <p>McClain and Stewart, Chapter 4  Barker, Jones, and Tate, Chapters 10 and 11  Garcia, Chapter 10  Wilkins, Chapters 4 and 5.  McClain, Carter and Brady, "Gender and Black Presidential Politics: From Chisholm to Mosely Braun." <i>Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy</i> 27, No. 1/2, 2005, pp. 43-59. (Loaded on BlackBoard site, but will have to scroll through entire volume to get to article.)</p>
November 1,	Blacks/Latinos/Asians/Indian Peoples and National Politics: The Supreme Court

and 6

McClain and Stewart, Chapter 4  
Barker, Jones, and Tate Chapters 5 and 6

November 8  
and 13

Blacks/Latinos/Asians/Indian peoples and State Politics

McClain and Stewart, Chapter 4  
Wilkins, Chapter 6.  
McCormick and Jones, "The Conceptualization of Deracialization." (ER)  
Jones and Clemmons, "The Model of Racial Crossover Voting." (ER)

November 15,  
20, 27, and 29

Blacks/Latinos/Asians and Urban Politics

McClain and Stewart, Chapter 5  
Garcia, Chapter 11  
Browning, Marshall and Tabb, entire book.

December 4  
and 6

Future Issues in Black, Latino, Asian American and Indian peoples in  
American Politics

McClain and Stewart, Chapter 6  
Barker, Jones and Tate, Chapter 11  
Garcia, Chapter 12  
Wilkins, Chapter 10.  
Lien et al., Chapter 7  
McClain et al., "Racial Distancing in a Southern City: Latino Immigrants' Views of  
Black Americans," *Journal of Politics* 68,3 (August 2006):571-584 (on  
BlackBoard)

A set of discussion questions for the final exam will be distributed at the end of the December 6 class.

December 14

Final Examination, Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.