

**Department of Political Science
Duke University
Spring 2006**

PS278S-Race and American Politics

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 to
2:30 p.m., Wednesday 10:30 to
noon and by appointment

Course Description

The definition and meaning of race have been, and continue to be, shaped by U.S. political and legal institutions. Hence, politics and race in the United States have been inextricably intertwined. The course focuses on the continued salience of race in American politics, and its influence on white and black political attitudes and behavior, and on the behavior and attitudes, where information is available, on Latinos. Attention is paid to the historical context in which the concept of race and race relations developed, and addresses the current context in which racial dynamics are played out. The course will provide a broad overview of the salience of race in the American political fabric and how it structures racial attitudes on a number of political and policy dimensions.

While the racial paradigm in the United States has expanded beyond black and white, and research on the politics of Latinos, American Indians, and Asian Americans is growing, the predominance of the research on the salience of race and American politics focuses on the black and white paradigm. Where literature exists on the attitudes of Latinos, Asian Americans, and American Indians, it is included.

Required Texts

David O. Sears, Jim Sidanius, and Lawrence Bobo, *Racialized Politics: The Debate about Racism in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Martin Gilens, *Why Americans Hate Welfare*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Jennifer L. Hochschild, *Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class, and Soul of the Nation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995.

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. New York: Routledge, 1994.

Howard Schumann, Charlotte Steeh, Lawrence Bobo, and Maria Krysan. *Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations* (revised edition). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action was White*. New York: Norton, 2005.

New York Times, *How Race is Lived in America*. New York: Times Books, 2001.

Several articles are available to be downloaded from the class web page. Several other articles will be available on the Electronic Reserve section of the class page in BlackBoard.

Course Requirements

1. Complete all required reading assignments for each class meeting and do any additional appropriate optional readings.
2. Make active contributions to inquiries and discussions.
3. Prepare for **three** of the modules a written 10-11 page, exclusive of title page and bibliography, “concept paper” in which major ideas are synthesized and critically analyzed. These papers will be due on the dates indicated in the module outlines. *Inadequately prepared papers will be returned for reformulation and rewriting.* Module papers will be graded and returned for revisions if not up to the highest standards of scholarly research and writing. **Papers will be graded on the following standards:**
 - 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. Participate in the creation of small “learning teams” to assume responsibility for assigned sessions. The task of each team will be to:
 - a. Develop a list of questions to help focus class discussion. Copies of discussion questions are to be distributed at the beginning of the appropriate class sessions.
 - b. Structure and lead class sessions to deal with the topics. Approaches may include, but are not limited to, the following: lectures, questions and answer sessions, debates, presentation and discussion of papers, group activities, case studies, and so forth.
5. Take final examination. Final examination: Friday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
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.

Grading

Concept Papers	50%
Final Examination	40%
Class Presentations	10%

Class Format

After the introductory meeting, the seminar will be organized into five modules. Each module will consist of readings, discussion, student presentations, concept papers, and review sessions.

Module One

This module examines the social and political construction of race in the United States. We will also discuss how other racial minority groups view race and where they place themselves relative to black Americans.

Module Two

The historical context of race and relationships and theoretical approaches to studying race are explored. Problems of studying racial attitudes are also addressed.

Module Three

This module examines changes and trends in white and black attitudes generally. Explanations for these changes are also examined.

Module Four

This module begins the exploration of the explanations for white attitudes on racial policy issues. Three explanations are examined--racial resentment, the role of government, and racial conservatism. In addition, the effects of racialized perceptions on white attitudes toward racial policy are also covered.

Module Five

The question of the definition of the "American Dream" and how it is perceived within America's black class strata is explored. Do black Americans believe in the "American Dream?"

Module Six

Are there any solutions to the problem of race and its effect on the U. S. political system? Is race an enduring problem? What does the future hold?

Course Calendar (Unless otherwise indicated, all readings are required)

January 11	Introduction and Course Overview
January 16	Martin Luther King Holiday (no class)
January 23	Module I: The Concept of Race (Paper for module due February 20, 2006)
	Audrey Smedley, "Social Origins of the Idea of Race," In <i>Race in the 21st Century</i> . Curtis Stokes, Theresa Meléndez, and Genice Rhodes-Reed, editors. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2001. (Download from Blackboard)
	Davis, "The Nation's Rule" and "Miscegenation and Beliefs" (Download from Blackboard)
	Melissa Nobles, <i>Shades of Citizenship</i> . (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2000), Chapters 1 & 2 (Download from Blackboard)
	López, "White Lines" (Download from Blackboard.)
	"'African American' Becomes a Term of Debate." <i>New York Times</i> , August 29, 2004. (Download from Blackboard)

Recommended additional readings:

Ian F. Haney López, *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race*. (New York: New York University Press, 1996).

F. James Davis, *Who is Black? One Nation's Definition*. (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1991).

Ariela J. Goss, "Litigating Whiteness: Trials of Racial Determination in the Nineteenth Century South," *The Yale Law Journal* 108 (October 1998):109-188.

January 30

Module I: The Concept of Race (Continued)

Clara E. Rodríguez, *Changing Race*. New York: New York University Press, 2000), Chapters 1-3 (Download from Blackboard)

William Darity, Jr., Darrick Hamilton, and Jason Dietrich. 2002. "Passing on Blackness: Latinos, Race, and Earnings in the USA." *Applied Economics Letters* 9 (October 15): 847-853. (Download from Blackboard)

William Darity, Jr., Jason Dietrich, and Darrick Hamilton. "Bleach in the Rainbow: Latino Ethnicity and Preference for Whiteness." Unpublished manuscript, February 2003. (Download from Blackboard)

"People of Color Who Never Felt They Were Black" *Washington Post*, December 26, 2002. (Download from Blackboard.)

"Going Beyond Black and White: Hispanics Choose "Other." *New York Times*, November 9, 2003. (Download from Blackboard)

"For Millions of Latinos, Race is a Flexible Concept." *Los Angeles Times*, March 1, 2003. (Download from Blackboard)

How Race is Lived in America, #2, "Best Friends, Worlds Apart."

Claire Jean Kim, "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans," in *Asian Americans and Politics*, Gordon H. Chang, ed. (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2001), pp. 39-78. (Download from Blackboard)

Ann Morning, "The Racial Self-Identification of South Asians in the United States." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 27, 1:61-79 (2001). (Download from Blackboard)

Nazli Kibria, "The Contested Meaning of 'Asian American': Racial Dilemmas in the Contemporary US." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 21, 5:939-958 (1998).

José Itzigsohn, Silvia Giorguli and Obed Vazquez, "Immigrant Incorporation and Racial Identity: Racial Self-Identification among Dominican Immigrants." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28, 1 (January 2005):50-78.

February 6

Module I: The Concept of Race (continued)

Omi and Wanant, entire book

February 13

Module II. Historical Context and Theoretical Perspectives
(Paper for module due February 27, 2006)

Schuman et al., Chapter 1.

Sears, Sidanius and Bobo, Chapter 1

Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action was White* (entire book)

II. Problems in Studying Racial Attitudes

Schuman et al., Chapter 2.

Patrick R. Cotter; Jeffrey Cohen; Philip B. Coulter. "Race-of-Interviewer Effects in Telephone Interviews." *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 46, No. 2. (Summer, 1982), pp. 278-284. (Download from BlackBoard.)

Steven E. Finkel, Thomas Guterbock, and Marian Borg. "Race of Interviewer Effects in a Pre-election Survey: Virginia 1989." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 55 (Fall 1991):313-330. (Download from Blackboard.)

February 20	Module II. Historical Context (continued)
February 27	Module III: Changes and Trends in White and Black Attitudes in General (Paper for module due March 20, 2006)
	Schuman et al. remainder of book
March 6	Module III: Changes and Trends in White and Black Attitudes in General (Continuation)
Spring Break	March 10-19, 2006
March 20	Module IV: Explanations of White Attitudes toward Racial Policies (Paper for module due April 3, 2006)

Explanation I: Its Racial Resentment

Sears, Sidanius, and Bobo, Chapters 2 & 3

Recommended additional readings:

Lawrence Bobo. 1983. "White's Opposition to Busing: Symbolic Racism or Realistic Group Conflict?" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 45:1196-1210

Lawrence Bobo. 1988. "Group Conflict, Prejudice, and the Paradox of Contemporary Racial Attitudes." In *Eliminating Racism: Profiles in Controversy*, ed. Phylis Katz and Dalmas A. Taylor. New York: Plenum.

Lawrence Bobo and James R. Kleugel. 1993. "Opposition to Race Targeting: Self-Interest, Stratification Ideology, or Racial Attitudes?" *American Sociological Review* 58:443-464.

Donald R. Kinder and Tali Mendelberg. 1995. "Cracks in Apartheid? The Political Impact of Prejudice among Desegregated Whites." *Journal of Politics* 57:402-424.

Explanation II: Belief in the Role of Government

Sears, Sidanius, and Bobo, Chapter 8.

Recommended additional readings:

Paul M. Sniderman and Edward Carmines. *Reaching Beyond Race*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Paul M. Sniderman, with Michael G. Hagen. 1985. *Race and Inequality: A Study in American Values*. Chatham, NJ: Chatham House.

Paul M. Sniderman and Thomas Piazza. 1993. *The Scar of Race*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press/Belknap Press.

**Racial Conservatism and Additional Explanations and Debates
Sears, Sidanius, and Bobo, remaining chapters in book**

Recommended additional readings:

Robert Huckfeldt and Carol Weitzel Kohfeld. 1989. *Race and the Decline of Class in American Politics*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Edward Carmines and James A. Stimson, *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989.

March 27

Module IV (continued)

Gilens, *Why Americans Hate Welfare* (entire book)

April 3

Module V: The “American Dream”—Does Black America Believe?
(Paper for module due April 17, 2006)

Hochschild, entire book

Recommended additional readings:

Lee Sigelman and Susan Welch. 1991. *Black Americans’ Views of Racial Inequality: The Dream Deferred*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

April 10

Module V: The “American Dream”—Does Black America Believe? (continuation)

April 17

Module VI: Is Race an Enduring U.S. Problem?
(Paper for module due Monday, May 5, 2006)

How Race is Lived, remainder of book

Ian Hacking, “Why Race Still Matters.” (Download from Blackboard)

Jennifer Hochschild, “Looking Ahead: Racial Trends in the United States.”
(Download from Blackboard)

Kenneth Prewitt, “Racial Classification in America: Where do we go from here?”
(Download from Blackboard)

Ian Haney López, “Race and the 2010 Census: Hispanics and the shrinking white majority.” (Download from Blackboard)

April 24

Module VI (continued)

Complete module
Discuss final exam

May 5 (Thursday) Final examination, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.