Race, Immigration and American Political Development

Visiting Assistant Professor: Girma Parris
Case Western University
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:30 or by appointment (Mather House 222)
Email: girmap.parris@case.edu

Course Description
American Political Development involves employing history as an active and independent variable (through the use of concepts such as timing and sequence, path dependence, critical junctures, political orders, and intercurrence) to address fundamental questions of political science and political institutional development. Its primary aim is the revelation of factors behind periods of continuity and moments of institutional change through focusing on political phenomena over long stretches of time as opposed to momentary snap shots of history.

Race and immigration policy have been intrinsic aspects of American political development. Building on the contributions of Rogers Smith and Desmond King's 2008 article Racial Orders in American Political Development and Daniel Tichenor's 2002 book Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America, this class will show the central role played by race and immigration in American Political Development. Although scholars from the race and immigration camps have alluded to the overlap in the politics of each, this class will aim to make those interconnections more explicit. Specifically, the class will show how historical trajectories in immigration politics and racial politics have — at times — reinforced each other and/or interacted, and how the presence or timing of particular events has had direct and indirect influence on the historical trajectories of the other. Ultimately, both have manifested in particular moments in American political development.

Course Goals
The course will use open-ended class discussion (the Socrates Method) to treat these moments of continuity and change in immigration and racial politics and to discuss how the two historical trajectories of race and immigration interacted, reinforced or were intrinsic to the other. Students will acquire the skills necessary to assess political history and isolate the factors involved in periods of continuity and periods of change.

Course Requirements: In order to attain a passing grade for the class, all students must attend class regularly participate in class discussion and make a 5-
10 minute presentation during the course of the semester and complete three take home examinations covering a third of the course each. Take home exams will count for 70% of your grade (Exam no. 1 = 20%; Exam no. 2 = 25%; Exam no. 3 = 25%).

**Attendance:** All students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Unexcused absences in excess of the two allotted will count against your class participation grade. The course is a seminar course and thus will focus around class discussion. Attendance subsequently in crucial to the functioning of the class.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings. Students will not be docked for their lack of participation but will be rewarded for their thoughtful and active contributions to class discussion. Class participation will make up 10% of your grade.

**Presentation:** All students are expected to make a presentation of 5-10 minutes during the course of the semester. Students should summarize the major arguments presented in the chosen reading and offer 3 discussion questions for the class. In order to receive full credit, students must either provide a Power Point presentation (or comparable visual accompaniment) or a handout for the class. The presentation will count for 20% of your grade.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: What is American Political Development?**

**Monday, January 14 –**
Introduction

**Definition and Methodological Foundations of American Political Development**

**Wednesday, January 16 –**

**Recommended:**

Friday, January 18 – Class Canceled – Attending Conference

Week 2: Methodological Foundations (continued)

Monday, January 21 – No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 23

How to Study American Political Development – Sustained Shifts in Authority, Institutional Structure and Coalition Building (viewed historically)

Friday, January 25 –

Week 3:

Race and Ethnicity – Definitions and Historical Origins

Monday, January 28 –

Wednesday, January 30 –

Friday, February 1 –

Week 4:

Monday, February 4 –
Syllabus for Race, Immigration and American Political Development


**Wednesday, February 6 –**

**Immigration Racial Hiérarchies, and Assimilation**

**Friday, February 8 -**
Valelly, Richard. The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 2, 4, and 5

Recommended:
Valelly, Richard. The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 3

**Week 5:**

**Monday, February 11 –**

**Wednesday, February 13 -**

Recommended:

**Immigration and American Political Development**

**Friday, February 15 –**
*************Midterm no. 1 posted**************

Week 6:

**Monday, February 18 –**

**Wednesday, February 20 -**

**Friday, February 22 –**


Week 7: The GI Bill, Race and the American Dream

**Monday, February 25 –**


**Wednesday, February 27 –**


**Recommended:**
Friday, March 1 –

********** Midterm no. 1 due at 11:59 pm**********

Week 8: The Great Migration and Problematic Assimilation in the North

Monday, March 4 -

Wednesday, March 6 -

Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction

Friday, March 8 –

***************March 11 - 15 – No Class – Spring Break***************

Week 9 –
Monday, March 18 –
Wednesday, March 20 –

Friday, March 22 –

Week 10 – Civil Rights and Immigration Reform

Monday, March 25 –

Wednesday, March 27 –

Friday, March 29 –

Week 11:

Monday, April 1 –
*************Midterm No. 2 Posted*************

Race and Immigration in the Post-Civil Rights Era

Wednesday, April 3 –

Friday, April 5 –

Week 12:

Monday, April 8 –

Wednesday, April 10 –

The Institutionalized Poverty of Blacks and the Browns

Friday, April 12 –

Week 13 –

Monday, April 15 –

*****Midterm No. 2 due Tuesday, April 16 at 11:59 pm***

Wednesday, April 17 –

Recommended (counter-arguments to the anti-black racist theory of mass incarceration):

Race, Immigration Politics in Scarce Economic Times

Friday, April 19 –
Recommended:
Week 14:

Monday, April 22 –

The Politics of Immigration in the Post 9/11 Era

Wednesday, April 24 –


Race and Immigration in the Obama and Trump Eras

Friday, April 26 –

***********************Midterm No. 3 Posted***********************

Week 15 –

Monday, April 29 –


Recommended:
Evolving Concepts of Race and Ethnicity:


Jansen, Robert. The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege (2005): Chapters 1 and Conclusion