Race, Immigration and American Political Development

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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 snapshots 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 symbiotic relationship between the politics of race and immigration and 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 13 –
Introduction

Definition and Methodological Foundations of American Political Development

Wednesday, January 15 –
Orren, Karen and Steven Skowronek. The Search for American Political Development (2004): 1-32 (Chapter 1)

Recommended:

**Friday, January 17 –**

**Week 2: How to Study American Political Development – Sustained Shifts in Authority, Institutional Structure and Coalition Building (viewed historically)**

**Monday, January 20 – No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

**Wednesday, January 22**  

**Friday, January 24 –**  

**Week 3:**  
Race and Ethnicity – Definitions and Historical Origins

**Monday, January 27 –**  

**Wednesday, January 29 –**
Syllabus for Race, Immigration and American Political Development


**Friday, January 31** –

Week 4:

**Monday, February 3** –

**Wednesday, February 5** –
Valelly, Richard. *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 2*

**Friday, February 7** -
Valelly, Richard. *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 3*

Week 5:

**Monday, February 10** –
Valelly, Richard. *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 4*

**Wednesday, February 12** –
Valelly, Richard. *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 5*
Friday, February 14 –
Valelly, Richard. The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle of Black Enfranchisement- Chapter 6

*************Midterm no. 1 posted**************

Week 6:
Immigration and American Political Development: Immigration, Racial Hiérarchies, and Assimilation

Monday, February 17 –


Recommended:


Wednesday, February 19 -


Friday, February 21 –


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

Monday, February 24 –

Wednesday, February 26 –

Recommended:

Friday, February 28 –

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

Week 8: The Great Migration and Problematic Assimilation in the North
Monday, March 2 -


Wednesday, March 4 -


Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction

Friday, March 6 –


***************March 9 – 13 – No Class – Spring Break***************

Week 9 –

Monday, March 16 –


Wednesday, March 18 –

Friday, March 20 –

Week 10 – Civil Rights and Immigration Reform

Monday, March 23 –


Wednesday, March 25 –

Friday, March 27 –

Week 11:

Monday, March 30 –
***************Midterm No. 2 Posted***************

Race and Immigration in the Post-Civil Rights Era

**Wednesday, April 1 –**

**Friday, April 3 –**

**Week 12:**

**Monday, April 6 –**

**Wednesday, April 8 –**

**The Institutionalized Poverty of Blacks, Browns**

**Friday, April 10 – Class Canceled – Attending Conference**

**Week 13 –**

**Monday, April 13 –**

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

Wednesday, April 15 –
Alexander, Michelle. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness: Chapter 1

Recommended:

Counterarguments to the anti-black racist theory of mass incarceration:

Friday, April 17 – Class Canceled – Attending Conference

Week 14 – Race, Immigration Politics in Scarce Economic Times
Monday, April 20 –


Recommended:


**The Politics of Immigration in the Post 9/11 Era**

**Wednesday, April 22 –**


**Friday, April 24 –**

Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*: Chapter 1

Stoll, Steven. *Ramp Hollow: The Ordeal of Appalachia*: Chapter 1

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

**Week 15 – Race and Immigration in the Obama and Trump Eras**
Monday, April 27 –


Recommended:

Evolving Concepts of Race and Ethnicity:


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