

Ethnic Politics In America
Ethnic Studies 151
Fall 2004

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Office Hours: Monday 11:30am-12:30pm

 Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00pm

 Or by appointment

Class Meets: M-W-F, 1:00pm-1:50pm, Warren Lecture Hall 2111

*****COURSE DESCRIPTION*****

Politics in the United States have been inflected by race from settlement through expansion, slavery, and Civil Rights. Today ethnic communities continue to be *both* targets and agents of policy and political activism. At the same time, race and ethnic issues are regularly submerged and stripped of their significance in mainstream political discourse. This is perhaps nowhere more clear than in election year 2004, where current and past wars, national security, and budget disasters put civil liberties and the realities of democracy into crisis for many communities. This course examines how political discourses in the United States both elide and engage structures of race. The first half of the course uses the 2004 election as a laboratory to closely analyze subtle and overt uses of race in democratic and republican bids to direct the near political future of the nation. The second half of the course extends beyond electoral politics to consider how different groups within the United States conceive of politics. Students will be expected to learn how to apply critical race analysis to contemporary political issues.

*****REQUIRED TEXTS*****

Books available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625)

Claire Jean Kim. 2000. *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City*.

New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Leland T. Saito. 1998. *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites in a Los Angeles*

Suburb. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

Articles listed below by week are available at UCSD Electronic Reserves.

*****GRADING*****

Attendance/Participation	10%
Speech/Commercial script	10%
Election Watch Journal	15%
Midterm	30%
Final	35%

Attendance/Participation: Required. Full credit requires no more than 2 excused or unexcused absences as well as attentive participation in all in class discussion and exercises. Attentive participation requires ACTIVE LISTENING to anyone speaking, ACTIVE SPEAKING during each class discussion, ENGAGED RESPECT for views that differ from your own, and HUMBLE, ACTIVE LEARNING, a willingness to move from knowing less but caring, to knowing more and caring more.

Speech/Commercial Script: (2-3 p. *firm* page limit, typed, double-spaced, 1-1.25" margins) This is a creative exercise allowing the student to bring insight and analysis from the course to bear on today's campaign strategies, *citing a minimum of two outside sources*. Select one issue and write a speech or television/radio commercial script clarifying racial aspects of the issue and suggesting a clear action strategy. A speech may be intended for either presidential candidate, or may be from a constituency addressing either a republican or democratic national audience. A television commercial may be for either presidential candidate or a constituency addressing either party, and can use any speaking characters, dialog, or staged situations to dramatize the clear issue at hand.

Election Watch Journal: (½ p. per week, 10 weeks, handwritten entries are acceptable if legible, otherwise typed, single-spaced) Each week students will receive several suggested questions relating course materials to current developments in the presidential election. Students can choose from among those questions *or* design their own appropriate question and write a ½-1p freewrite response. Journal entries are **due each Friday** except Nov. 24, due on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. After Nov. 2, journal entries will focus on post-election coverage and debates falling out from the election.

Midterm and Final Examinations: The midterm and final will be cumulative, in-class, closed book, and closed-notes examinations. Students are required to supply their own bluebook(s) and pens.

ADA Statement: Any student with a disability or condition that compromises her ability to complete course requirements should notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor will take all reasonable efforts to accommodate those needs. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, notify the professor within one week of receiving syllabus.

Late or Make-up Assignments and Exams: Late assignments will not be accepted and there will be no make up exams except, perhaps, in extreme circumstances with appropriate documentation.

*****DISCUSSION GUIDELINES*****

This is primarily a course using theoretical and practical readings to guide our analysis of political issues. Understandably, the current political climate might trigger spirited and passionate feelings of many kinds, as well as reach into your personal and perhaps painful experiences, throughout the quarter. Our best discussions will engage analytic *and* emotive dimensions of the learning process, a process we must agree to share together in mutual care and solicitude. We must focus on clarifying issues and perspectives, increasing our capacity to analyze and synthesize various data and ideas we encounter, instead of proselytizing, demeaning, or adopting self-righteous moral high ground. Disrespectful, abusive, combative, or harsh language will not be tolerated in the classroom *or in course assignments*. Please focus on open-minded, engaged listening to your classmates, and sincere efforts to express your ideas as we embark on a collective process to deepen our understanding of how race and ethnicity inflect United States politics, and how we, as individuals and collectively, respond to these issues today.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I – Race and Politics: 2004 Election Laboratory

WEEK ONE: RACE, ETHNICITY AND ELECTORAL POLITICS

(Sep. 27-Oct. 1)

- Claire Jean Kim *Bitter Fruit* (p. 1-52)
- Michael Omi and Howard Winant. 1994. “Racial Formation” and “The Racial State.” In Michael Omi and Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. New York and London: Routledge. 53-91.
- Charles L. Zelden. 2002. “Historical Background” and “Impact and Legacy.” In *Voting Rights on Trial: A Handbook with Cases, Laws, and Documents*. Santa Barbara, CA and Denver, CO: ABC-CLIO. 39-85, 161-181.
- Jeremy D. Mayer. 2002. “The Incurably White Republican Party: The Resilient Racial Politics of 2000” and “The Future of Race in Presidential Campaigns.” In *Running on Race: Racial Politics in Presidential Campaigns, 1960-2000*. New York: Random House. 273-310.

WEEK TWO: NATIONAL SECURITY

(Oct. 4-Oct. 8)

- Muneer Ahmad “Homeland Insecurities: Racial Violence the Day After September 11.” *Social Text* 20.3 (2002) 101-115.
- Leti Volpp. 2002. “The Citizen and the Terrorist.” *UCLA Law Review* 49: 1575-1599.
- Judith Butler. 2002. “Explanation and Exoneration or What Can We Hear?” *Grey Room*, No. 7 (Spring): 56-67.
- Raymond Williams. 1977. “Hegemony.” In Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 108-114.
- Antonio Gramsci. 1971. Selections. In Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith, ed. and trans., *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. New York: International Publishers. 229-247.

WEEK THREE: IMMIGRATION

(Oct. 11-Oct. 15)

- Pierette Hondagneu-Sotelo. 1995. “Women and Children First: New Directions in Anti-Immigrant Politics.” *Socialist Review* 25(1): 169-190.
- Leo Chavez. 1997. “Immigration Reform and Nativism: The Nationalist Response to the Transnational Challenge.” In Juan F. Perea, ed. *Immigrants Out: Nativism and the Anti-Immigrant Impulse in the United States*. New York: New York University Press. 61-77.
- Richard Delgado. 1997. “Citizenship.” In Juan Perea, ed. *Immigrants Out* (see above citation). 318-323.
- Dorothy E. Roberts. 1997. “Who May Give Birth to Citizens?: Reproduction, Eugenics, and Immigration.” In Juan Perea, ed. *Immigrants Out* (see above citation). 205-219
- Michael Fix and Wendy Zimmermann. 2000. “Immigrant Children: Chapter 1 in Changing Cities.” In Gerald D. Jaynes, ed. *Immigration and Race: New Challenges for American Democracy*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 98-124.
- View “New World Border”

WEEK FOUR: WELFARE

(Oct. 18-Oct. 22)

- Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw. 1995. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." In Kimberlé Crenshaw, Neil Gotanda, Gary Peller, and Kendall Thomas, eds. *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings That Formed The Movement*. New York: The New Press. p. 357-377.
- Dorothy Roberts. "The Welfare Debate." In Dorothy Roberts. *Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Vintage Books. p. 202-245.
- Jill Quagdan. 1994. "The Politics of Welfare Reform," "Universal Principles in Social Security," and "Explaining American Exceptionalism." In *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. 117-134, 155-173, and 187-197.
- Robert Leiber. 1998. "Race, Welfare, and the Future of American Politics." In *Shifting the Color Line: Race and the American Welfare State*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 216-234.

Speech/Commercial Script Due (Friday, Oct. 22, 1:00pm)

WEEK FIVE: ALTERNATIVE PRESS

(Oct. 25-Oct. 29)

- TBA
- View "Fahrenheit 911"

Midterm (Friday, Oct. 29, 1:00pm-1:50pm)

PART II – Re-imagining Politics

WEEK SIX: COALITION POLITICS—ALLIANCE AND CRISIS 1

(Nov. 1-Nov.5)

- Leland Saito *Race and Politics* (Mon p. 1-54; Wed p.55-124; Fri p.125-196)

WEEK SEVEN: COALITION POLITICS—ALLIANCE AND CRISIS 2

(Nov. 8-Nov. 12)

- Claire Kim *Bitter Fruit* (Mon p.53-155; Wed p. 156-223)

WEEK EIGHT: ACTIVISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

(Nov. 15-Nov. 19)

- Robin D. G. Kelley. 1997. "Looking Forward: How the New Working Class Can Transform Urban America." In Robin Kelley. *Yo' mama's disfunkcional!: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*. Boston: Beacon Press. p.125-158.
- David Naguib Pellow. 2002. "A Social History of Waste, Race, and Labor, Part I: Movements, Technology, and Politics, 1880s-1930s" and "A Social History of Waste, Race, and Labor, Part II: Waste Management and Waste Conflicts, 1940s-2000." In *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 21-65.
- Robert D. Bullard. 2000. "Environmental Racism Revisited" and "Environmental Justice as a Working Model." In *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 97-136.
- Luke W. Cole and Sheile R. Foster. 2001. "Processes of Struggle: Grassroots Resistance and the Structure of Environmental Decision Making" and "Transformative Politics." In *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*. New York and London: New York University Press. 103-133, 151-165.

WEEK NINE: SOVEREIGNTY AND REPARATIONS

(Nov. 22-Nov. 24)(Thanksgiving vacation Nov. 25-Nov. 26, NO CLASS FRIDAY)

- Haunani-Kay Trask. 1999. "Sovereignty: The Hawai'i Context." In Haunani-Kay Trask. *From A Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. p. 65-109.
- Clarence J. Munford. 1996. "Reparations." In Clarence J. Munford. *Race and Reparations: A Black Perspective for the 21st Century*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, Inc. 413-439.
- J. Angelo Corlett. 2003. "Affirmative Action for Latinos?" and "Reparations to Native Americans?" In J. Angelo Corlett. *Race, Racism & Reparations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 115-123, 147-190.

WEEK TEN: POLITICS OF ART AND CULTURE

(Nov. 29-Dec. 3)

- Robin D. G. Kelley. 1997. "Looking to Get Paid." In Robin Kelley. *Yo' mama's disfunkcional!: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*. Boston: Beacon Press. 43-77.
- Victor Viesca. 2000. "Straight Out the Barrio: Ozomatli and the Importance of Place in the Formation of Chicano/a Popular Culture in the United States." *Cultural Values* 4(4): 445-473.
- George Lipsitz. 1998. "White Desire: Remembering Robert Johnson." In George Lipsitz. *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 118-138.
- Tricia Rose. 1994. "Bad Sistas: Black Women Rappers and Sexual Politics in Rap Music." In Tricia Rose. *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America*. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press. 146-182.

Final Exam (see schedule of classes)