

Political Science 111
Race, Gender, and American Democracy

Spring 2010

Time: MWF; 1:00PM -1:50PM
Location: 335 2BSB
Professor Michael Fortner
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00AM-1:00PM

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Course Descriptions

Politics is about difference—a contest between different interests, ideologies, and identities. Without difference this is no politics. Difference is also a natural element of the human condition. We are born different—with different genes, into different families, in different places. Yet it does not stop there. Historical and social processes add layers of difference onto the ones we receive at birth: individuals become enmeshed in webs of difference where they and others similarly entangled struggle to find meaning and morality in their differences. Some forms of difference, however, pose particular problems for democratic theory and practice. This course will explore these tensions and examine the various challenges diversity creates for American democracy.

The course begins by providing students with a broad but thorough introduction to democratic theory. Next, the course examines theoretical approaches to the study of race, gender, and sexuality. This section also reviews theoretical and empirical work that investigates the intersection of these social differences in society and politics. Finally, this course will investigate how the tensions between diversity and democracy manifest themselves in contemporary political controversies.

Course Organization and Requirements

The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. The lectures will not only cover the themes addressed in assigned readings but will also provide a broad overview of those topics. I will reserve time at the end of each class for questions and brief discussions. Occasionally, entire classes will be discussion-based.

Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Participation (50%)
- Midterm Paper (25%)
- Final exam (25%)

Grading

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scoring scheme.

- A 90-100%

DRAFT 1/6/10

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F below 60

Participation/presentations

Attendance is mandatory. A sign-in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class. All students must come to class prepared, having completed all assigned readings prior to class. Students should be ready to respond questions and engage in serious discussion. We will also use Blackboard to continue class discussions or start new ones. Feel free to post questions about the readings or offer your initial thoughts. Blackboard will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their engagement with course materials and boost their participation grade. Your attendance/discussion grade represents 50% of your participation grade.

There will be five debates. Depending on the size of the class, students will participate in at least one debate. Each team will receive a grade, and these grades will be based on the quality of the presentation, the strength and sophistication of the arguments, and the quality and appropriateness of the evidence. Your individual grade will be based on your team grade and your individual effort. Your individual debate grade represents 50% of your participation grade.

Midterm Paper

A paper (7-9) is due March 5. Your midterm papers will explore the philosophical origins of the American constitutional system. They will assess the extent to which the American constitutional system exhibits democratic, republican or liberal ideals. You will conduct a close reading of the Constitution and its 27 Amendments. Of course, you do not have to discuss each element of the Constitution. Instead, you must offer an argument regarding the philosophical orientation of these documents, and draw upon various sections of the Constitutions and/or specific Amendments to support your argument. You should also address those areas that might contradict your argument. You will receive a memo detailing the specifics of this assignment on February 1. A paper proposal is due on February 15. These proposals should identify your argument and include a detailed outline of your paper.

Exams

The final exam will feature a combination of short-answer and essay questions. The final exam is cumulative. It will encompass themes and topics addressed in course readings, class lectures, and debates. I will hold a review session outside of class before the exam to make sure that you are as prepared as possible.

Late Work

There will be no make-up exams offered. If you miss an exam, you receive a zero. I will make exceptions for medical emergencies and deaths in the family, both of which require documentation. If you know in advance that you absolutely have to miss an exam, notify me at least one week in advance and you will be able to take the test before the scheduled test date, but not after.

DRAFT 1/6/10

Your midterm paper is due March 5, and will be collected in class. Extensions will not be granted for this assignment unless I receive a notification of the medical and family emergencies noted above. In the absence of such notification, students will lose one letter grade (e.g. A to B, C to D) for each day that the assignment is late.

Academic Honesty

Students should follow the university's regulations regarding academic integrity as laid out in the Student Handbook. Students are strongly advised to read and familiarize themselves with these regulations. If students violate standards of academic honesty they will receive a failing grade in the class and may face expulsion from the University.

Required Books:

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
ISBN-13: 978-0804754729

Les Back and John Solomos. 2009. *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader, 2nd Edition*. New York: Routledge. **ISBN-13:** 978-0415412544

Keith Boykin. 1997. *One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*. New York: Anchor Books. **ISBN-13:** 978-0385479837

David A. Hollinger. 2006. *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism*. New York: Basic Books. **ISBN-13:** 978-0465030651

Cornel West. 2001. *Race Matters*. Boston: Beacon Press. **ISBN-13:** 978-0807009727

Andrew Sullivan, ed. 2004. *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*. New York: Vintage.
ISBN-13: 978-1400078660

Recommended Reading:

William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White. 1998. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Longman.
ISBN-13: 978-0205309023

Jan 11 Introduction

Democratic Theory

Jan 13 Classical Democracy

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 1

Jan 15 Republicanism

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 2

Jan 18 **No Class**

Jan 20 **Liberal Democracy**

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 3, pgs. 71-100

Jan 22 **Liberal Democracy**

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 3, pgs. 100-120

Jan 25 **Liberalism**

Isaiah Berlin. 2000. "Two Concepts of Liberty," in *Liberty*, ed. Henry Hard. New York: Oxford University. (*On Reserve*)

Jan 27 **Pluralism**

Michael Walzer. 1993. *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. New York: Basic Books. Preface and Chapter 1 (*On Reserve*)

Recommended Reading:

David Held. 2006. *Models of Democracy*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapter 6

Jan 29 **Philosophy and the American Political System**

Michael Sandel. 1996. *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1 (*On Reserve*)

Feb 1 **Philosophy and the American Political System**

Michael Sandel. 1996. *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 2 (*On Reserve*)

Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Feb 3 **Race**

W.E.B. Du Bois. 2009. "The Conservation of the Race," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Franz Fanon. 2009. "The Fact of Blackness," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. 2009. "From Bi-Racial to Tri-Racial," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Jennifer Hochschild, 2009. "Racial Trends in the United States," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Howard Winant. 2009. "Race and Racism" in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Recommended Reading:

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. 1997. "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation," *American Sociological Review* 62(3): 465-480. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 5

Race

David R. Roediger. 2009. "All About Eve, Critical White Studies, and Getting Over Whiteness," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

K. Anthony Appiah. 2009. "Racial Identity and Racial Identification," in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Stuart Hall. 2009. "Old and New Identities, Old and New Ethnicities," *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Feb 8

Gender

Joan Wallach Scott. 1986. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91(5): 1053-1075. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 10

Gender

Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman, "Doing Gender," *Gender and Society* 1(2): 125-151. (*On Reserve*)

Judith Lorber, "Night to his Day": The Social Construction of Gender.

http://www.meac.org/Resources/ed_services/SG_WEB/SeeingGender/PDFs/SocialConstructionOfGender.pdf

Feb 12

Sexuality

Steven Seidman. 1994. "Queer-Ing Sociology, Sociologizing Queer Theory: An Introduction," *Sociological Theory*, 12(2): 166-177. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 15

Sexuality

Mark Blasius. 1994. *Gay and Lesbian Politics: Sexuality and the Emergence of a New Ethic*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapter 1 (*On Reserve*)

Cathy Cohen. 2001. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: the Radical Potential of Queer Politics?" in *Sexual Identities, Queer Politics*, ed. Mark Blasius. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 17

Intersectionality

Audre Lourde, 1995. "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference," in *Words of Fire Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American*, ed. Beverly Guy-Sheftall. New York: The Free Press. (*On Reserve*)

Deborah K. King. 1995. "Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of Black Feminist Thought," in *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American*, ed. Beverly Guy-Sheftall. New York: The Free Press. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 19 Intersectionality

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, "African-American Women's History and the Metalanguage of Race," *Signs*, No. 2, pp. 251-274. (*On Reserve*)

Joane Nagel. 2000. "Ethnicity and Sexuality," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26:1107-133. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 22 Intersectionality

Mignon R. Moore. 2006. "Lipstick or Timberlands? Meanings of Gender Presentation in Black Lesbian Communities," *Signs* 32:113-39. (*On Reserve*)

Jane Ward. 2004. "'Not All Differences Are Created Equal': Multiple Jeopardy in a Gendered Organization," *Gender and Society*, 18(1): 82-102. (*On Reserve*)

Recommended Reading:

Danielle L. McGuire. 2004. "'It Was like All of Us Had Been Raped': Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle." *Journal of American History* 91(3): 906-931. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 24 Intersectionality

Martin Nesvig. 2001. "The Complicated Terrain of Latin American Homosexuality Source," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 81(3/4): 689-729. (*On Reserve*)

David T. Abalos. 2002. *The Latino Male: A Radical Redefinition*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter 4. (*On Reserve*)

Recommended Reading:

Marysol W. Asencio. 1999. "Machos and Sluts: Gender, Sexuality, and Violence among a Cohort of Puerto Rican Adolescents," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 13(1): 107-126. (*On Reserve*)

Feb 26 Race and the Politics of Gender

bell hooks. 1981. *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Boston. South End Press. Chapter 5. (*On Reserve*)

Elizabeth Martínez. 1995. "In Pursuit of Latina Liberation," *Signs*, 20(4): 1019-1028. (*On Reserve*)

Recommended Reading:

bell hooks. 1981. *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*. Boston. South End Press. Chaps. 3, 6.

Mar 1 Race and the Politics of Gender

Hazel V. Carby. "White Women Listen!" in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Kimberly Springer. "Third Wave Black Feminism?" in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Patricia J. Williams. "Race and Rights" in *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Ruth Frankenberg. 2000. "White Women, Race Matters," *Theories of Race and Racism*, eds. Les Back and John Solomos. New York: Routledge.

Mar 3 Race and Queer Politics

Keith Boykin. 2009. *Race: One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*. New York: Anchor Books. Skim Chapter 2, Chapters 3-4.

Mar 5 Race and Queer Politics

Keith Boykin. 2009. *Race: One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*. New York: Anchor Books. Chapters 5-6.

Midterm Paper Due

American Political Controversies

Mar 8 AIDS Crisis

Cathy Cohen. 1999. *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1, Chapter 6, pgs. 186-210. (*On Reserve*)

Mar 10 AIDS Crisis

Cathy Cohen. 1999. *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 6, pgs. 210-219, Chapter 8. (*On Reserve*)

Mar 12 Racial Redistricting

Chandler Davidson. 1994. "The Recent Evolution of Voting Rights Law Affecting Racial and Language Minorities," in *Quiet Revolution in the South: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act 1965-1990*, eds. Chandler Davidson and Bernard Grofman. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (*On Reserve*)

McCrary et al. 1994. "Alabama," in *Quiet Revolution in the South: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act 1965-1990*, eds. Chandler Davidson and Bernard Grofman. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (*On Reserve*)

Mar 15 **Racial Redistricting**

Abigail Thernstrom. 2009. *Voting Rights--and Wrongs: The Elusive Quest for Racially Fair Elections*. Washington, D.C.: AEI Press. Introduction, Conclusion. (*On Reserve*)

Mar 17 **Racial Redistricting**

Abigail Thernstrom, "Racial Gerrymandering Is Unnecessary," *Wall Street Journal* 11/11/2008 (*On Reserve*)

Abigail Thernstrom, "Beyond Black Politics," *Wall Street Journal* 3/14/2008 (*On reserve*)

Lani Giniuer. 1996. *Tyranny of the Majority: Fundamental Fairness in Representative Democracy*. New York: Free Press. Introduction, Chapter 5. (*On Reserve*)

Debate: Is racial redistricting consistent with American democratic principles?

Recommended Reading:

Lani Giniuer. 1996. *Tyranny of the Majority: Fundamental Fairness in Representative Democracy*. New York: Free Press. Chapters 2-4.

Abigail Thernstrom. 2009. *Voting Rights--and Wrongs: The Elusive Quest for Racially Fair Elections*. Washington, D.C.: AEI Press.

Mar 19 **The Census**

Peter Skerry. 2000. *Counting on the Census? Race, Group Identity, and the Evasion of Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. Introduction, Chapter 1. (*On Reserve*)

Mar 22 **No Class**

Mar 24 **No Class**

Mar 26 **No Class**

Mar 29 **The Census**

David A. Hollinger. "Race, Politics, and the Census," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 3/17/2006 (*On Reserve*)

Kim M. Williams. 2005. "Multiracialism & the Civil Rights Future," *Daedalus* 134(1):53-60, (*On Reserve*)

Steven Hitlin, J. Scott Brown, Glen H. Elder Jr. 2007. "Measuring Latinos: Racial vs. Ethnic Classification and Self-Understandings." *Social Forces* 86(2): 587-611. (On Reserve)

Recommended Reading:

David A. Hollinger. 2003. "Amalgamation and Hypodescent: The Question of Ethnoracial Mixture in the History of the United States," *American Historical Review*, 108(5): 1363-1390.

Mar 31

The Census

Clara Rodriguez. 2000. *Changing Race: Latinos, the Census and the History of Ethnicity*. New York: NYU Press. Chapters 7-8. (On Reserve)

Debate: Should the census include racial and ethnic categories?

Recommended Reading:

Kwame Anthony Appiah and Amy Gutmann 1998. *Color Conscious*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Apr 2

Abortion

Amy Richards. 2006. "What is Abortion?" in *Abortion under Attack: Women on the Challenges Facing Choice*, ed. Krista Jacob. Emeryville, CA: Seal Press. (On Reserve)

Rickie Solinger. 1998. "Abortion Politics and History," and "Pregnancy and Power before *Row vs. Wade*, 1950-1970" in *Abortion Wars: A Half Century of Struggle, 1950-2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (On Reserve)

Apr 5

Abortion

Francis J. Beckwith. 2007. *Defending Life: A Moral and Legal Case Against Abortion Choice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2. (On Reserve)

Apr 7

Abortion

Ronald Dworkin. 1994. *Life's Dominion: An Argument About Abortion, Euthanasia, and Individual Freedom*. New York: Vintage. Chaps. 1, 5. (On Reserve)

Lawrence Tribe. 1992. *Abortion: The Class of Absolutes*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. Chaps 2, 6. (On Reserve)

Debate: Are restrictions on abortion consistent with American democratic principles?

Recommended Reading:

Mark Graber. 1999. *Rethinking Abortion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Apr 9

Same Sex Marriage

Andrew Sullivan, ed. 2004. *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*. New York: Vintage. Pgs. 47-60, 146-154, 185-191, 200-238, 274-276, 282-284, 353-355.

Apr 12

Same Sex Marriage

Martha Nussbaum. 2009. "A Right to Marry?" *Dissent* 56(3): 43-55 (*On Reserve*)

Andrew Sullivan, ed. 2004. *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*. New York: Vintage. Pgs. 3-23, 42-45, 81-85, 181-184, 240-245, 296-299.

Apr 14

Same Sex Marriage

Excerpt from: *Bowers v. Hardwick*

Excerpt from: *Lawrence v. Texas*

Excerpt from: *Baker v. Vermont*

Excerpt from: *Goodridge & Others v. Department of Public Health*

Jon Kyl, "Judicial Activism Forces Same-Sex Marriage on the Nation," in *Defense of Marriage: Does it Need Defending?*, 71-77 (*On Reserve*)

Debate: Are state constitutional restrictions on same-sex marriage consistent with American democratic principles?

Recommended Reading:

Excerpt from *Katherine Varnum v. Timothy J. Brien*

Excerpt from *Hernandez v. Robles*

Excerpt from *Kerrigan and Mock v. Connecticut Department of Public Health*

Apr 16

Immigration

Samuel P. Huntington "The Hispanic Challenge," *Foreign Policy*, Mar/Apr2004, Issue 141, p30-45. (*On Reserve*)

Richard Rodriguez. 1994. "Closed Doors" in *Arguing Immigration: The Debate over the Changing Face of America*, ed. Nicolaus Mills. New York: Touchstone. (*On Reserve*)

Nathan Glazer. 1995. "The Closing Door," in *Arguing Immigration: The Debate over the Changing Face of America*, ed. Nicolaus Mills. New York: Touchstone. (*On Reserve*).

Apr 19

Immigration

Amitai Etzioni. 2005. "Review: The Real Threat: An Essay on Samuel Huntington," *Contemporary Sociology*, 34(5): 477-485. (*On Reserve*)

Jack Citrin, Amy Lerman, Michael Murakami, and Kathryn Pearson. 2007. "Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity?" *Perspectives on Politics* 5(1):31-47. (*On Reserve*)

Alba, Richard. 2006. "Mexican Americans and the American Dream," *Perspectives on Politics* 4 (2): 289-96. (*On Reserve*)

Apr 21 Immigration

Tamar Brandes, 2009. "Rethinking Equality: National Identity and the Language Rights in the United States Texas," *Hispanic Journal of Law & Policy*, 15(1): 7-50. (*On Reserve*)

Debate: Should English be the official language of the United States?

Apr 23 Post-Ethnic America?

David A. Hollinger. 2006. *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism*. New York: Basic Books.

Apr 26 Post-Ethnic America?

David A. Hollinger. 2006. *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism*. New York: Basic Books.

Apr 28 Race Matters?

Cornel West. 2001. *Race Matters*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Apr 30 Race Matters?

Cornel West. 2001. *Race Matters*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Final Exam