

Race and Public Policy

PPAI 1701

Fall 2014

Tuesday, 4-6:30

Wilson Hall 204

Instructor: Steven White

Office: Taubman 003

Office Hours: Monday, 3-4 (and by appointment)

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Course Description

This seminar examines race and public policy in the United States. The course begins with conceptual and historical background: What are different ways of thinking about race and political representation in America? How has race been intertwined with public policy development in the 20th century? And how does the United States compare to other countries in this regard? We will then turn to case-by-case examinations of several contemporary public policy areas like policing and incarceration, labor organizing, and voting rights. This course draws primarily from political science, but also incorporates historical, sociological, and legal scholarship to critically assess race and public policy.

Assessment Criteria

50%: Final research paper (15-20 pages)

40%: Four response papers (2-3 pages each)

10%: Participation

This seminar requires you to write an original research paper, which constitutes 50 percent of your final grade. The topic is up to you, as long as it is related to race and public policy. We will discuss this in more detail in class. I encourage you to start thinking about your topic as early as possible and meet with me to discuss it. An ungraded, informal research proposal will be due midway through the semester to make sure you are on track. The final paper is due **December 16 by 5 pm.**

Another 40 percent of the grade comes from a series of short response papers. You will each be assigned four weeks where you will write a 2-3 page paper highlighting key themes from the readings and raising points for discussion. These will be due **Monday night** via email so they can help inform our discussions the next day. While not nearly as detailed as the research paper, simply summarizing the readings is not sufficient. You must go beyond this and assess the claims the readings are making: Do you buy the arguments? What do they get right? What do they get wrong? Are there other perspectives that would be a useful complement?

Finally, class participation is a critical part of the seminar experience, and will account for 10 percent of your grade. I encourage you to come to class with questions about the readings and ideas for

discussion. I am genuinely interested in hearing your thoughts on the material! For those who feel uncomfortable or nervous speaking up in class, you will not be penalized for shyness and I encourage you to communicate your thoughts and questions on the readings to me via email and in office hours.

Books

This course requires you to purchase (or read in the library reserves) five books:

- Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances: Race and Party Competition in America*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010)
- Arnold Hirsch, *Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago, 1940-1960*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998)
- Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America*, (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2005)
- Amy Lerman and Vesla Weaver, *Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014)
- Robert Lieberman, *Shaping Race Policy: The United States in Comparative Perspective*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007)

All other readings will be available online.

In general, the reading load is heavier in the first half of the class, then somewhat lighter in the second half of the class as you go about finishing your research papers. In some cases, it is essential that you pay attention to the detail of a particular reading (e.g., the empirical debate about the death penalty's efficacy and racial bias: Why exactly do different authors reach different conclusions?). In other cases, you should focus more on taking in the larger points, rather than getting lost in the historical specifics (e.g., Hirsch's history of race and housing in Chicago: this is not a history class, although historical perspective is an important part of thinking about public policy today). I will talk about this each week and help you learn to read different texts in different ways.

Academic Integrity

This class is focused on the development of research and writing skills. Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated. Further information about the academic code at Brown can be found at:

<http://brown.edu/academics/college/degree/policies/academic-code>

Accommodations

Please get in touch if you need additional accommodations. More information about Student and Employee Accessibility Services can be found at:

<http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/accessibility-services/students-disabilities>

Schedule

September 9: Introduction

- Read the syllabus

September 16: Political Representation

- James Madison, Federalist 10
- James Stimson, Michael MacKuen, and Robert Erikson, "Dynamic Representation," *American Political Science Review* 89(3), 1995, 543-565.
- Kay Lehman Schlozman, Sidney Verba, and Henry Brady, *The Unheavenly Chorus: Unequal Political Voice and the Broken Promise of American Democracy*, Chapter 1
<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s9685.pdf> (pp. 1-24)
- Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page, "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens," forthcoming in *Perspectives on Politics* (pp. 2-24)
- James Stimson, "Don't Underestimate the Power of Public Opinion," *New York Times*,
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/04/21/do-the-rich-call-the-shots-13/dont-underestimate-the-power-of-public-opinion>

September 23: Race and Political Representation

- Paul Frymer, *Uneasy Alliances* (pp. 3-48; 87-206)

September 30: 20th Century Social Policy Development

- Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White*
- Ira Katznelson and Suzanne Mettler, "On Race and Policy History," *Perspectives on Politics* 3, 2008, 519-537.

October 7: Race and Public Policy in Comparative Perspective

- Robert Lieberman, *Shaping Race Policy* (pp. 1-26; 99-173)

October 14: Housing

- Arnold Hirsch, *Making the Second Ghetto* (**READ** pp. 1-39 and 171-275; **SKIM** 68-170)
- Devah Pager and Hana Shepherd, "The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets," *Annual Review of Sociology* 34, 2008, 181-209 (**SKIM** this, but pay attention to the housing section on pp. 188-189)

October 21: Policing

- Amy Lerman and Vesla Weaver, *Arresting Citizenship* (pp. 1-156; 231-260)

October 28: Death Penalty (**PAPER PROPOSALS ARE DUE IN CLASS**)

- John J. Donohue and Justin Wolfers, "Uses and Abuses of Empirical Evidence in the Death Penalty Debate," *Stanford Law Review* 58, 2006, 791-846. (**SKIM**)
- Stephen Klein, Richard Berk, and Laura Hickman, *Race and the Decision to Seek the Death Penalty in Federal Cases*, RAND Corporation, 2006, http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR389.html (pp.1-129)
- "The Persistent Problem of Racial Disparities in the Federal Death Penalty," American Civil Liberties Union, http://www.aclu.org/files/pdfs/capital/racial_disparities_federal_deathpen.pdf

November 4: Voting and Political Participation

- Alexander Keyssar, *The Right to Vote* (pp. 256-324)
- Voting Rights Act legislation text
- Charles Stewart III, Nathaniel Persily, and Stephen Ansolabehere, "Regional Differences in Racial Polarization in the 2012 Presidential Election: Implications for the Constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act," *Harvard Law Review* 126(6), 2013, 205-220.
- *Shelby County v. Holder* decision

November 11: Labor Unions

- Paul Frymer, “Labor and American Politics,” *Perspectives on Politics* 8(2), 2010, 609-616.
- Dorian Warren, “The American Labor Movement in the Age of Obama: The Challenges and Opportunities of a Racialized Political Economy,” *Perspectives on Politics* 8(3), 2010, 847-860.
- Josh Eidelson, “Alt-Labor,” *The American Prospect*, <http://prospect.org/article/alt-labor>
- *At the River I Stand* (documentary)

November 18: Affirmative Action

- Robert Lieberman, *Shaping Race Policy* (pp. 174-201)
- Anthony Chen and Lisa Stulberg, “Racial Inequality and Race-Conscious Affirmative Action in College Admissions: A Historical Perspective on Contemporary Prospects and Future Possibilities,” in Fredrick Harris and Robert Lieberman (eds.), *Beyond Discrimination*, 2013. (pp. 105-134)
- Alexandra Kalev, Frank Dobbin, and Erin Kelly, “Best Practices or Best Guesses? Assessing the Efficacy of Corporate Affirmative Action and Diversity Policies,” *American Sociological Review* 71(4), 2006, 589-617.
- “Room for Debate: Should Affirmative Action Be Based on Income?,” *New York Times*, April 27, 2014, <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/04/27/should-affirmative-action-be-based-on-income>

November 25: Race and the Affordable Care Act

- “Health Coverage by Race and Ethnicity: The Potential Impact of the Affordable Care Act,” Kaiser Family Foundation, 2013, <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/8423.pdf>
- Michael Tesler, “The Spillover of Racialization Into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race,” *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3), 2012, 690-704.
- Jacob Hacker, “The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Structure and Sequence in the Development of British, Canadian, and U.S. Medical Policy,” *Studies in American Political Development* 12, 1998, 57-130.

December 2: Reparations

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations,” *The Atlantic*, 2014
- David Frum, “The Impossibility of Reparations,” *The Atlantic*, 2014
- William Darity and Dania Frank, “The Economics of Reparations,” *American Economic Review* 93(2), 2003, 326-329.

December 9: Conclusion

- Robert Lieberman, *Shaping Race Policy* (pp. 202-224)

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE DECEMBER 16 BY 5 PM