

**ETHNICITY, RELIGION AND RACE
IN AMERICAN POLITICS**

Political Science 215
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Lapham Hall 160

FALL SEMESTER 2007

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Office hours: T/TH 11-12 noon

INTRODUCTION: In this course we study the factors of ethnicity, religion and race as social forces that have helped to shape American politics. Further, we look at the attempts by organized groups seeking to represent and express the interests of people defined by their national origins, religious identifications, and race to advance their political agendas in our country, with reference to national, state and local affairs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading and mastery of the course readings and materials on the syllabus.
2. Participation in class discussions.
3. Completion of all course assignments including all quizzes and the final exam
4. Attendance in all classes.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Race and Ethnic Relations, 2007/2008 edition, paper.

"Can't We All Get Along?" Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics. Fourth edition, Paper.

The Constitution of the United States.

Additional readings that are to be found on UWM Electronic Reserve.

CLASS AND LECTURE TOPICS:

WEEK ONE: first class meeting: September 4: Introductory remarks on the aims and organization of the course. Review of the course syllabus.

Readings: *"Can's We All Get Along?"* glossary at the end of the book, pp. 193-199.
Race and Ethnic Relations, Article 14.

WEEK ONE AND TWO: September 6-13: Cultural diversity in America; the issue of American national unity. Concepts: "Melting pot," "Cultural pluralism," "ethnicity and nation," "Mosaic," "Kaleidoscope," "Assimilation," "Democracy," "Political culture."

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 1-5, 7-9, 12, 15-18.
"Can't We All Get Along?" Chapter 1.
The Constitution of the United States.

WEEK THREE AND FOUR: September 18-27: Immigration to the United States: laws history, issues, impact. Illegal or “undocumented” immigration. Professor Huntington’s argument. The great national immigration debate.

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 19-23.
Krikorian Article on “Immigration” and article from the *National Strategy Review Forum*, on UWM Electronic Reserve.

WEEKS FIVE AND SIX: October 2-9: Latino Americans.

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 30-33.

FIRST EXAM: THURSDAY OCTOBER 11

WEEKS SEVEN TO TEN: October 16-30, November 1, 6: Race in U.S. society and politics: The Civil Rights Revolution, Affirmative Action and the Courts; the Reparations issue.

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 10-12, 27-29.
“*Can’t We All Get Along?*” Chapters 2 and 3, “Timeline,” pp. 203-209
The Thernstroms’ Article, “We Have Overcome,” on UWM Electronic Reserve

SECOND EXAM: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8

WEEK ELEVEN: November 13, 15: Voting and diversity. Findings from recent U.S. Presidential Elections. American Indians. Asian Americans.

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 24-26, 34-38.
“*Can’t We All Get Along?*” Chapters 4 and 5, “Timeline,” pp.211-215.
“An Introduction to Indian Nations in the U.S.,” on UWM Electronic Reserve.

WEEK TWELVE: November 20: Ethnicity and Race in U.S. Foreign Policy.

Readings: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, Articles 41 and 46.
Article on NATO expansion lobbying efforts, on UWM Electronic Reserve
Madeline Albright on the Israel-Palestine Conflict, on UWM Electronic Reserve.

Papers are due on November 29: No Exceptions

WEEKS THIRTEEN TO FOURTEEN: November 27, 29, December 4, 6: Religion and the American Political Scene.

Readings: Kenneth Wald Article, on UWM Electronic Reserve.
Race and Ethnic Relations, Articles 3, 7, 51.

WEEK FIFTEEN: December 11: The portrayal of race, ethnicity, and religion in American Motion Pictures. Defamation and the First Amendment. Wisconsin's Political Culture experience. The Lind Thesis.

NOTE: December 11 is Our Final Class Meeting.

Readings: *"Can't We All Get Along?"* Chapter 6.

Race and Ethnic Relations, Articles 39-46, 51-53.

Risjord and Gurda Articles on UWM Electronic Reserve.

FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY DECEMBER 14 IN OUR CLASSROOM. 12:30-2:30 P.M.

INFORMATION about exams, written assignments and other important matters pertaining to the course will be covered in the first session of the class. Study guide information will also be discussed at this time.

DROP POLICY: All courses dropped after **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**, will remain on the student's record and will be reflected on transcripts with the appropriate symbol. A student may drop the course with the instructor's written approval up to the end of the eighth week of class, **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**. A student attempting to drop the course after this date may do so only for reasons of extraordinary circumstances not related to academic performance in the course. To drop a class after this date, a student must first obtain the instructor's written approval and then file a written appeal with the advising office of his/her school or college.

HANDICAPPED STUDENTS: It is important that students with handicaps requiring any special accommodations identify themselves immediately to the instructor so that appropriate arrangements may be sought.

THIS COURSE fulfills the *UWM Cultural Diversity* and *General Education* requirements. At the same time, this course is an *integral element* in the UWM Political Science Major and Minor.

For more information about the Political Science Program, Please speak with the instructor or contact the department which is found on the sixth floor of Bolton Hall (229-4221).