U.S. Racial Politics: New Deal to the Present
Political Science 449
Winter 2015

Professor: Joseph Lowndes
Office: PLC 919
email: jlowndes@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: T TR 2-3:30pm

Course description:
In this course, we will examine the ways that race shaped the major political dynamics in the United States from the Great Depression to the present. We will analyze the relationship of race politics to New Deal social policy; World War II, the Cold War, civil rights and race liberation movements, the rise of the modern Right, immigration policy, and current cross-ethnic political coalitions, the 2008 presidential election, and racial politics in the Obama era.

Materials:
There are two books for this course, available in the bookstore. The books are The Unsteady March, by Philip Klinkner and Rogers Smith; and When Affirmative Action Was White, by Ira Katznelson. PS 5549 will have one additional text: Lowndes, Novkov and Warren, eds. Race and American Political Development. All other readings will be available on Blackboard, and are indicated as such.

Requirements for 449: This is a heavy reading course
1. Seven in-class quizzes. These quizzes will assess your comprehension of the assigned reading, lectures and class discussions. Your lowest two scores will be dropped. No make-up quizzes are possible. (50% of final grade)

2. Midterm in-class exam (25% of final grade)

3. Final exam (25% of final grade)

4. Participation: Students will be expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Constructive, informed, respectful participation that contributes directly to conversations about the course material will raise borderline grades; lack of participation may result in lower grades.

Policies:
Students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the professor
soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

*Class attendance.* You will be expected to attend class. If you miss a class day on which a quiz is given, you must bring a doctor’s note to re-take it. Unexcused absences will be taken into account in determining your class participation grade, regardless of the reason.

*Regrading of materials.* You may request re-grading of materials that the instructors have graded. If you wish to make such a request, contact me for a copy of the re-grading policy. You will be asked to provide a written explanation of why you wish to have the assignment regarded.

*Plagiarism or cheating.* This one’s simple: don’t do it. Don’t even think about doing it. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s words or ideas without giving the original author credit by citing him or her. If you use someone else’s language directly, you must use quotation marks. If you rely on another person’s ideas in creating your argument, you must provide a citation. This is obviously required for research papers, but I will expect careful attention to citation in the argumentative essays as well. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please contact me before you submit the assignment for grading. If you plagiarize or cheat in this class, the **BEST** outcome you can hope to achieve is a failing grade. Ignorance will not provide a defense to the application of this policy.

**Learning Goals:**

*Substantive Learning Goals:*

• To give students a deeper understanding of US racial politics as expressed in institutions, political structure (Constitution, federalism), social movements, and political culture.

• To give students a deeper understanding of major developments in US politics since the New Deal, including World War II, the Cold War, the 1960s, “the Reagan Revolution,” 9/11, and post 1965 immigration politics.

*Critical Skills and Tools:*

• To identify, describe, and define basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning US politics

• To analyze political issues and phenomena using political science concepts, theories, and methods through discussion and writing.

• To use argument and evidence effectively to communicate original analysis of political phenomena.

**Week One: Introduction: Race as a Political Phenomenon**
Tuesday  
Course introduction  
- Begin in-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Thursday  
- Omi and Winant, “On the Theoretical Status of Race”  
- Finis in-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

**Week Two: Race and the New Deal**  
Tuesday  
- “The New Deal” from Alan Brinkley, *American History: A Survey*  
- Katznelson, preface and chapter 2

Thursday  
- Katznelson, chapters 3 and 4

**Week Three: World War Two**  
Tuesday  
- Klinkner and Smith, chapters 5 and 6

Thursday  
- Ronald Takaki, “The Watershed of World War II: Democracy and Race” from  
- *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944)

**Week Four: Cold War Civil Rights**  
Tuesday  
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 7

Thursday  
- Mary Dudziak, “Telling Stories about Race and Democracy” from *Cold War Civil Rights*.  
- Film: “Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power”

**Week Five: Black Liberation and state response**  
Tuesday  
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 8

Thursday  
- Martin Luther King, Jr., “Give Us the Ballot and We Will Transform the South”  
- Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”
- Lyndon B. Johnson's Commencement Address at Howard University: "To Fulfill These Rights"

**In-class midterm**

**Week Six: The Politics of Backlash**
Tuesday
- Lowndes, *From the New Deal to the New Right*, chapters 4 and 5
- Film: “George Wallace: Settin’ the Woods on Fire

Thursday

**Week Seven: Antidiscrimination, affirmative action, and colorblindness**
Tuesday
- Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “Racism Without Racists”

Thursday
- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 9

**Week Eight: Race, immigration and coalition-building**
Tuesday

Thursday
- TBA

**Week Nine: Race and Mass Incarceration**
Tuesday
- Naomi Murakawa, “The Origins of the Carceral Crisis.”
- Jason Stanley and Vesla Weaver, “Is the United States a Racial Democracy?”

Thursday
- Michele Alexander *The New Jim Crow*: Intro, Chapter One

**Week Ten: Police Killings and #Blacklivesmatter**
Tuesday
- Joe Lowndes, “Fear and Fantasy in Ferguson”

Thursday
- Jose Martin, “Policing is a Dirty Job But Nobody’s Gotta Do It: Six Ideas for a Cop-Free World.”

**Final Exam:** 8:00 Thur., Mar. 19