Race, Immigration and American Political Development

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Course Description
American Political Development involves employing history as an active and independent variable (through the use of concepts such as timing and sequence, path dependence, critical junctures, political orders, and intercurrence) to address fundamental questions of political science and political institutional development. Its primary aim is the revelation of factors behind periods of continuity and moments of institutional change through focusing on political phenomena over long stretches of time as opposed to momentary snap shots of history.

Race and immigration policy have been intrinsic aspects of American political development. Building on the contributions of Rogers Smith and Desmond King's 2008 article Racial Orders in American Political Development and Daniel Tichenor's 2002 book Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America, this class will show the central role played by race and immigration in American Political Development. Although scholars from the race and immigration camps have eluded to the overlap in the politics of each, this class will aim to make those interconnections more explicit. Specifically, the class will show how historical trajectories in immigration politics and racial politics have — at times — reinforced each other and/or interacted, and how the presence or timing of particular events has had direct and indirect influence on the historical trajectories of the other. Ultimately, both have manifested in particular moments in American political development.

Course Goals
The course will use open-ended class discussion (the Socrates Method) to treat these moments of continuity and change in immigration and racial politics and to discuss how the two historical trajectories of race and immigration interacted, reinforced or were intrinsic to the other. Students will acquire the skills necessary to assess political history and isolate the factors involved in periods of continuity and periods of change.
Course Requirements: In order to attain a passing grade for the class, all students must attend class regularly participate in class discussion and make a 5-10 minute presentation during the course of the semester and complete two take home examinations (one midterm and one final examination).

Attendance: All students are permitted 2 unexcused absences. Unexcused absences in excess of the two allotted will result in failure of the course. The course is a seminar course and thus will focus around class discussion. Attendance subsequently in crucial to the functioning of the class.

Class Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings. Students will not be docked for their lack of participation but will be rewarded for their thoughtful and active contributions to class discussion. Class participation will make up 10% of your grade.

Presentation: All students are expected to make a presentation of 5-10 minutes during the course of the semester. Details concerning requirements for the presentation will be forthcoming.

Course Schedule

Week 1:
What is American Political Development?

Monday, August 29 –
Introduction

Definition and Methodological Foundations of American Political Development

Wednesday, August 31 –
Orren, Karen and Steven Skowronek. The Search for American Political Development (2004): 1-32 (Chapter 1)

Friday, September 2 – Class canceled

Week 2

Methodological Foundations (continued)

Monday, September 5 - Classes Canceled
Wednesday, September 7


Friday, September 9


Week 3: How to Study American Political Development – Sustained Shifts in Authority, Institutional Structure and Coalition Building (viewed historically)

Monday, September 12 –

Wednesday, September 14 –

Race and Ethnicity – Definitions and Historical Origins

Friday, September 16 –

Monday, September 19

Wednesday, September 21

**Friday, September 23 –**


**Week 5: Immigration Racial Hierarchies, and Assimilation**

**Monday, September 26 –**


**Wednesday, September 28 –**


**Friday, September 30 –**


**Week 6: Immigration and American Political Development**

**Monday, October 3 - No Class (Rosh Hashanah)**

**Wednesday, October 5**


**Friday, October 7**

**Week 7: The GI Bill, Race and the American Dream**

**Monday, October 10**

**Wednesday, October 12 - No Class (Yom Kippur)**

**Friday, October 14**

**Week 8: Monday, October 17**


**Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction**

**Wednesday, October 19 –**
Friday, October 21


Week: 9 Monday, October 24


Wednesday, October 26 –


Friday, October 28 -


Week 10: Civil Rights and Immigration Reform

Monday, October 31 –


Wednesday, November 2 -

Friday, November 4 -

Week 11: Race and Immigration in the Post-Civil Rights Era

Monday, November 7 –

Wednesday, November 9 -

Friday, November 11 –

Week 12: The Institutionalized Poverty of Blacks and the Browns

Monday, November 14 –

Wednesday, November 16
Friday, November 18 –


**Recommended** (counter-arguments to the anti-black racist theory of mass incarceration):


Fortner, Michael Javen “Historical Method and the Noble Lie” (A Reply to Donna Murch) Boston Review; October 23, 2015

Week 13: **Race, Immigration Politics in Scarce Economic Times**

Monday, November 21 –


No Classes Wednesday, November 23 and Friday, November 25
(Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 14: **Monday, November 28** –


**The Politics of Immigration in the Post 9/11 Era**

Wednesday, November 30 –

Friday, December 2


Week 15: Monday, December 5 –


Evolving Concepts of Race and Ethnicity

Wednesday, December 7 –


Friday, December 9 –

Jansen, Robert. The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege (2005): Chapters 1 and Conclusion

Week 15: Race and Immigration in the Obama Era

Monday, December 12 –


Coates, Ta-Nehisi “The Case for Reparations.” The Atlantic (June 2014)