Description
This course will explore the character and role of racial and ethnic relations in the political process. We will focus on the experience of African-Americans, Latinos, and Asians. We will explore the reasons that make race and ethnicity an enduring source of conflict but we will also examine their affirmative qualities—as a source of meaning, identity, self-worth, and power. Politics is broadly defined to include several dimensions beyond electoral participation and representation. Therefore, the course draws information and analysis from various disciplines.

Readings
Yvette Alex-Assensoh and Lawrence Hanks, eds. Black and Multicultural Politics in America
Gabriel Haslip-Viera, “Changed Identities: A Racial Portrait of Two Extended Families, 1909 – Present,” in Blackboard
Michael Jones-Correa, Between Two Nations
Michael Peter Smith and Joe Feagin, eds. The Bubbling Cauldron
Ronald Takaki, Debating Diversity: Clashing Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America
Pei-Te Lien, The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation

Requirements
Attendance 20%
Mid-term exam 40%
Final exam 40%

Attendance Policies
- Two unjustified absences will result in failure of the attendance requirement.
- More than three justified absences will result in failure of the attendance requirement.
- Additional grade penalties will accrue commensurate with the number of absences.
- Make up of a missed exam will be granted only in extreme cases and only if the absence is justified, properly documented, and cleared by the office of the dean of undergraduate studies.

Exams
Each exam will consist of 50 objective questions—true or false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer—based on the material covered in class. Each question will be worth two points. The mid-term will be based on the material covered up to the mid-term point. The final will cover material discussed during the second half of the semester. There will be study guides but no review previous to the exams.

Office Hours
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30am, Humanities B-16, and at any other day or time that is mutually agreeable by special appointment. Phone messages: 442-5377. E-mail: conga@albany.edu. Calls and e-mails will be returned only during business hours, M-F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Course Outline

September
1  Introduction
3  Lecture: Race, Ethnicity, Culture
8  Lecture: Class, Gender, Public Policy, Politics
10 Haslip-Viera article
15 Debating Diversity, Glazer, "The Emergence of an American Ethnic Pattern;" Takaki, "Reflections on Racial Patterns in America;" The Bubbling Cauldron, Smith and Feagin, "Putting 'Race' in its Place."
17, 22, 24, 29 Black and Multiracial Politics in America

October
6, 8, 13, 15 Between Two Nations

20 Mid-term exam

November
3 The Making of Asian America through Political Participation
5, 10, 12, 17 The Bubbling Cauldron
19, Debating Diversity

December
1, 3 Debating Diversity
7 Last day of classes. **Monday. We do not meet.**
14 Final exam 3:30-5:30 pm. Earth Science 245.