Race, Immigration and American Political Development

Visiting Assistant Professor: Girma Parris
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy- Political Science
Office: Milne Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00
Email: geparris@albany.edu

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 snapshots 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.

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**Course Schedule**

Week 1: **What is American Political Development?**

**Tuesday, January 21 –**
Introduction

Week 2: **Definition and Methodological Foundations of American Political Development**

**Tuesday, January 26 –**

**Thursday, January 28 –**


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

**Tuesday, February 2** –

**Thursday, February 4** –

Week 4: **Race and Ethnicity – Definitions and Historical Origins**

**Tuesday, February 9** –


**Thursday, February 11** –

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

**Tuesday, February 16** –

**Thursday, February 18 –**

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

**Tuesday, February 23**


**Thursday, February 25**

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

**Tuesday, March 1**


**Thursday, March 3**


Week 8: Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction

Tuesday, March 8 –


Thursday, March 10 –


****No Classes on Tuesday, March 15 and Thursday, March 17 – Spring Break****
Week 9: **Civil Rights and Immigration Reform**

**Tuesday, March 22 –**


**Thursday, March 24**

Week 10: **Race and Immigration in the Post-Civil Rights Era**

**Tuesday, March 29 –**


**Thursday, March 31 –**

Week 11: **The Institutionalized Poverty of Blacks and the Browns**
Tuesday, April 5 –


Thursday, April 7 –

Week 12: Race, Immigration Politics in Scarce Economic Times

Tuesday, April 12 –

Thursday, April 14 –

Week 13: The Politics of Immigration in the Post 9/11 Era

Tuesday, April 19 –


Thursday, April 21 –

Week 14: Evolving Concepts of Race and Ethnicity

Tuesday, April 26 –

Thursday, April 28 –

Week 15: Race and Immigration in the Obama Era

Tuesday, May 3 –

McClain, Paula D. and Joseph Stewart Jr. Can We All Get Along?: Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics (2010): Chapters 2 and 3