

RACE AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

PSC 225 / PSC 225W / AAS 225

Fall Semester 2012

Thursdays, 2:00 - 4:40

4-162 Dewey Hall

Professor Valeria Sinclair-Chapman

335 Harkness Hall

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E-mail: vsc@ur.rochester.edu

Office hours:

Wed 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Despite gains made by racial and ethnic minorities in the areas of civil and voting rights, race remains a major source of cleavage in American politics. This class introduces students to the concepts, theories, and methodological approaches that political scientists use to examine the intersection of racial politics and political representation in the American political context. We will examine democratic theory, the Voting Rights Act, public opinion and electoral behavior, elected officials and public policies, and the effect of electoral rules and districting decisions on minority representation in Congress.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Grose, Christian. 2011. *Congress in Black and White: Race and Representation in Washington and at Home*.

Minta, Michael. 2011. *Oversight: Representing the Interests of Blacks and Latinos in Congress*.

Swain, Carol. 2006. *Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress*. (New Edition)

Tate, Katherine. 2003. *Black Faces in the Mirror: African Americans and Their Representatives in the U.S. Congress*.

Harris, Fredrick. 2012. *The Price of the Ticket: Barack Obama and the Rise and Decline of Black Politics*.

GRADING

Attendance	5 %
Participation	20
Weekly Quiz	15
Group Projects (2)	30
Research Paper	30

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. You will earn a participation grade weekly. For that reason, regular attendance and participation in class are required. You are encouraged to frequently ask questions and share your informed opinions during class discussions. Quality counts as well as quantity— empty commentary will be reflected in the grade. Reading and any additional assignments should be completed before class on the day assigned. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission. Students with special needs should meet with me early in the semester so that proper accommodations can be made. Attendance accounts for 5% of your final grade. Because this course is taught as a seminar, discussion accounts for a significant portion, 20%, of your final grade.

GROUP PROJECTS. You will complete two group projects, each worth 15% of your final grade. The first will be “**Swain Update Representative/District Profiles**” modeled after Swain’s classic analysis. The second will address the potential “**Changing of the Guard**” in minority representation due to demographic changes in districts across the country. Groups will be assigned early in the semester. Please begin each class in your groups to complete the **Most Interesting Topic** exercise. Details on each project and the weekly exercise will be provided in class.

QUIZZES. Weekly quizzes will be used to calculate 15% of your final grade. Quizzes cannot be made-up, so plan accordingly. Your lowest grade will be dropped.

RESEARCH PAPER. A research paper will account for 30% of your final grade. Papers should follow proper writing, spelling, and grammar rules, and be 8-10 pages in length with 1-inch margins and a 12-point font. Research papers should address a research topic that you find interesting. I encourage you to get an early start on identifying a topic of interest and to discuss your paper ideas with me prior to submitting a paper proposal. **Paper proposals must be uploaded on Blackboard by 11:59 on Friday, November 2nd.** This 2-3 page proposal should describe your research topic, central question of interest, a preliminary review of the literature you plan to use, and your plans for addressing the question (data/evidence sources and research approach). **The final research paper must be uploaded on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 14th.** Use a mix of books and scholarly articles as references, including books from this course. Research papers should be 8-10 pages for non-W students and 15-20 pages for W-students, excluding the bibliography, graphs, or tables.

The College Writing Center provides help at all stages of the writing process (from brainstorming to drafting to revising) on any writing project. Students can sign up for a one-hour appointment with an experienced graduate-student consultant at the Writing Program office, Rush Rhees G-121, or call 273-3584. In addition, students may visit The Undergraduate Writing Fellows, who offer critical peer feedback and are available for walk-in hours at various campus locations. For more information on all writing resources visit: <http://writing.rochester.edu>

ACADEMIC HONESTY. You are expected to turn in material that you have completed yourself. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Both cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that will be reported for disciplinary action. Please refer to the University Handbook and/or speak with the instructors if you have any questions in this area.

COURSE OUTLINE

Aug 30 Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association
Class Canceled

DOES RACE/ETHNICITY MATTER IN THE “AGE OF OBAMA?”

Sept 6

Lecture: Bai, Matt. 2008. “Is Obama the End of Black Politics?” *New York Times*.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/magazine/10politics-t.html?pagewanted=all>

Gillespie, Andra. 2009. “[The Third Wave: Assessing the Post-Civil Rights Cohort of Black Elected Leadership.](#)” *National Political Science Review*, pp. 139-161.

Walters, Ron. 2007. [PSC 224 Black Politics\Barack Obama and the Politics of Blackness 2007 Walters.pdf](#) "Barack Obama and the Politics of Blackness." *Journal of Black Studies*. pp. 7-29.

DEMOCRACY, RACE, ETHNICITY, AND REPRESENTATION

Sept 13

Read: Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. ["Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent Yes."](#) *JOP*, pp. 628-657.
Dovi, Suzanne. 2002. ["Preferable Descriptive Representatives: Will Just Any Woman, Black, or Latino Do?"](#) *APSR*, pp. 729-743.
Beltran, Cristina. 2010. ["From Identification to Representation: Civic *Latinidad* and the Making of the 'Latino Vote,'"](#) in *The Trouble With Unity: Latino Politics and the Creation of Identity*, pp. 99-128.
Hajnal, Zoltan. 2009. ["Who Loses in American Democracy? A Count of Votes Demonstrates the Limited Representation of African Americans."](#) *APSR*, pp. 37-57.

Race, Districting, and Representation

Sept 20

Read: Swain, *Black Faces, Black Interests* (Skim All, Read Group Assignment)
Casellas, Jason. 2011. "District Composition and the Election of Latino Candidates," in *Latino Representation in State Houses and Congress*, pp. 51-75
Casellas, Jason. 2011. "Electing Latinos in Non-Latino Majority Districts," in *Latino Representation in State Houses and Congress*, pp. 76-105.
View: Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (A Documentary Film)

Minority Voting Rights and Voter ID Laws

Sept 27

Read: President Lyndon B. Johnson, "Special Message to Congress: The American Promise." (1965) <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/speeches.hom/650315.asp>
Attorney General Eric Holder, "NAACP Annual Convention Address." (July 2012). <http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-120710.html>
Weiser, Wendy and Lawrence Norden. 2012. ["Voting Law Changes in 2012."](#) Brennan Center for Justice, pp. 1-37
Lien, Pei-te, et al. 2007. ["The Voting Rights Act and the Election of Nonwhite Officials."](#) *PS: Political Science & Politics*, pp. 489-494.
Davidson, Chandler. 2009. ["The Historical Context of Voter Photo-ID Laws."](#) *PS: Political Science & Politics*, pp. 93-96.
Barreto, Matt, et al. 2009. ["The Disproportionate Impact of Voter-ID Requirements on the Electorate—New Evidence from Indiana."](#) *PS: Political Science & Politics*, pp. 111-116.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS

Race and Party in Black Representation

Oct 4

Read: Tate, *Black Faces in the Mirror*, pp.1-69
Grose, *Congress in Black and White*, pp. 1-53

Group Presentations I

Oct 11

Present: Swain Update/Member Profile

View: Fear of a Black Republican (A Documentary Film)

Redistricting and Substantive Representation

Oct 18

Read: Grose, *Congress in Black and White*, pp. 54-86, pp. 134-186.

Beyond Substantive Representation

Oct 25

Read: Tate, *Black Faces in the Mirror*, pp. 96-170

Congressional Hearings and Minority Representation

Nov 1

Read: Minta, *Oversight*, pp. 1-126 (All)

Nov 2

PAPER PROPOSALS DUE (UPLOADED) 11:59 PM

MINORITY REPRESENTATION AND THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY

Nov 8

Read: Harris, *The Price of the Ticket*, pp. 3-99

Review 2012 Election Results

Nov 15

Read: Harris, *The Price of the Ticket*, pp. 100-198

Nov 22

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

MINORITY REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND ATTITUDES

Nov 29

Read: Barreto, Segura, and Woods. 2004. "The Mobilizing Effect of Majority-Minority Districts on Latino Turnout." *APSR*, pp. 65-75.

Gay, Claudine. 2002. "Spirals of Trust? The Effect of Descriptive Representation on the Relationship Between Citizens and Their Government." *AJPS*, pp. 717-732.

Gay, Claudine. 2001. "The Effect of Black Congressional Representation on Political Participation." *APSR*, pp.589-602.

Griffin and Keane. 2006. "Descriptive Representation and the Composition of African American Turnout." *AJPS*, pp. 998-1012.

Group Presentations II

Dec 6

Present: Changing of the Guard?

Dec 14

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE (UPLOADED) 11:59 P.M.