Political Science 190.607

Comparative Racial Politics

Fall 2011

Johns Hopkins University

Tuesdays 1-2:50pm

Mergenthaler 366

Professor Erin Aeran Chung

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Office hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course surveys the major trends and approaches to the comparative study of race in political science and critically examines the link between race and politics. The goals of the course are two-fold. First, we will investigate how the study of race is linked to some of the classic preoccupations of comparative political science, such as capitalist development, state formation, and nationalism. Second, we will explore how race “works” and how it is made and remade over time and across space. We thus seek to understand how the ideologies of race and racism connect disparate peoples, regimes, institutions, and national mythologies. Topics will include race and state formation, citizenship and national membership, immigration, racial regimes, and the political economy of race.

PREREQUISITES: This course is open to graduate students only.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION: Participation and Discussion (30%), 2 short essays (15% each), Research Paper (40%)

Because this seminar is based primarily on peer-led discussions, regular attendance and active participation are essential. All students must complete the assigned readings before coming to class and prepare ideas for debate, discussion, or interpretation.

Students will write 2 short essays (approximately 3 pages double-spaced)—to be circulated via email to other seminar members at least one day before the seminar—that includes a brief discussion of the key debates and issues brought up in the designated week’s readings as well as a short critique. Please do not use these essays to summarize the readings. Those who are signed up to submit an essay for a particular session are expected to give a short presentation at the beginning of class (approximately 10-15 minutes) based on their essays. Those who are not presenting must circulate 1-2 discussion questions for the seminar session at least one day before the seminar.

Finally, students are required to write a long paper, approximately 20 pages in length (double-spaced), to be submitted by Thursday, December 8, by 4pm in the Political Science department. Paper proposals—either a 1 page outline or abstract—will be due on the fifth week of class (September 27). Rough drafts of the papers must be circulated to all seminar members via email by Monday, November 28. Students will present their papers during the final seminar.
session for approximately 10 minutes each. Members of Nathan Connolly’s seminar on “Racial Literacy for Historians” will join us for this final session, which will be organized as a “mini-conference.” Feedback, criticism, and discussion by all seminar participants will follow the presentations. All seminar members are expected to read and prepare comments for each paper to be presented in class.

REQUIRED BOOKS: The following books are available for purchase at the JHU bookstore and are on reserve at the Eisenhower Library. Additional materials (articles and book chapters) are available on-line through the library’s electronic reserve system (password: CHU607).


COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS
(Selections from books ordered through the JHU bookstore are marked with an asterisk *. These selections are not available on electronic reserve. However, the books are available on reserve at the Eisenhower Library.)

Week 1 (August 30): Introduction to the Course
No reading assignments

Week 2 (September 6): Theoretical and Methodological Problems in the Study of Comparative Racial Politics


*Optional Readings on the Concept of Race and Research Methods:*


**PART I: RACE, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND RIGHTS**

Week 3 (September 13): Race and State Formation


**Optional:**


Week 4 (September 20): Citizenship and State Membership


Optional:


1 PAGE OUTLINE OR ABSTRACT OF PAPER PROPOSAL DUE ON SEPTEMBER 27 IN CLASS.

PART II: RACIAL REGIMES

Week 5 (September 27): The Racial State

Week 6 (Reschedule to Monday, October 3?): Racial Hierarchy and Racial Democracy

Optional:

Week 7 (October 11): No class (Fall Break Day)

Week 8 (October 18): Ethnic Democracies


Optional:


**Week 9 (October 25): Citizenship Regimes**


Optional:


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**PART III: NEGOTIATING RACIAL POLITICS**

Week 10 (November 1): The Political Economy of Race and Immigration


Optional:


Week 11 (November 8): Immigration and Illegality


Optional:

Week 12 (November 15): Contingent Citizenship


*Optional:*


Week 13 (November 22): Immigration Politics and Difference


Optional:


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**ROUGH DRAFTS OF PAPERS MUST BE CIRCULATED TO ALL SEMINAR MEMBERS VIA EMAIL BY NOVEMBER 28 (MONDAY).**

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Week 14 (Reschedule to Thursday, December 1): Research Paper Presentations

*We will hold a mini-conference with Nathan Connolly’s seminar for this last session.*

Students are expected to read and prepare comments for each paper to be presented in class.

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**FINAL DRAFTS OF PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 8 (THURSDAY) BY 4PM IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.**