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## **POLI 315 Minority Group Politics (Hybrid)**

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Fall 2020

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Instructor:	Dr. Saemyi Park
Class Time & Location:	Online meeting on T – not synchronous <b>F2F meeting on TH @ Professional Studies (CPS) 116 (12:30PM-1:45PM)</b> For more information, please see the course calendar in p. 7
Email:	<a href="mailto:spark@uwsp.edu">spark@uwsp.edu</a>
Office Hours:	<b>Every Wednesday from 11AM to 1PM</b> or by appointment via Zoom

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### **A NOTE FOR ALL STUDENTS**

I know that this is still an incredibly difficult time for all of us. Many of you are now working in non-ideal conditions. In planning the semester, I have tried to accommodate this in several ways, as you will see below. Here is an outline:

1. **Hybrid:** this course is a hybrid course that we have **online asynchronous meeting on Tuesdays** and **in-person meetings on Thursday** during the class time. I will utilize the course site in Canvas for Tuesday to effectively share instructional materials with you. You can complete them when you can prior to in-person meetings on Thursday. Meanwhile, we will have the enough number of face-to-face classes on Thursday for in-depth discussion that will occur in a safe environment. Please keep in mind that we will NOT have in-person classes in December after the Thanksgiving break. For more information, please see **the course calendar in page 7**.
2. **An option for an asynchronous online pathway:** for students who want to avoid or are unable to attend in-person classes on Thursday due to health concerns, unsupportive living conditions, and/or any reasons, I will provide alternative assignments. After in-person class on Thursday is over, I will post the assignment for those of students. This **alternative assignment will be posted to the course site by Noon, Friday during the in-person meeting weeks**. Please keep in mind that there are several weeks when all classes are held completely online. For these weeks, all students will complete the same tasks. [See the course calendar for more information in p.7]
3. **Grading:** my goal for this course is to invite you to engage in the informed discussion about pressing issues for racial and ethnic groups in the United States. I am less interested in mechanically evaluating your performance with a letter grade. So, I will take into account how hard, stressful, confusing, and complicated life currently is while grading. Everyone should expect to pass this course If you will complete the required coursework by its deadlines. You will complete a reasonable amount of work each week. And, I will do my best to be available when you need help. Please utilize my **weekly online office hours** and **The Muddiest Point Forum** (read p. 4 & p. 6 for more information).
4. I know that our in-person class is going to feel very different. We will wear masks or face coverings while you will be assigned seats that allow for 6 feet of separation from your classmates. We will not be allowed to eat/drink or take off masks/face coverings in class. It will take some time for all of us to get used to, but **I am very confident that we can make it work and have a great semester!**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a historical and contemporary examination of the role of race in American politics and the political behavior of minority groups in the United States. We will examine the fundamental theories of race and ethnicity as it applies to the lived experiences and quest for freedom, justice, and equality on part of the four major racial groups (African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans) and their interactions with the dominant racial group (non-Hispanic white Americans) in the American political system. We will also investigate other patterns of dominance with a focus on gender and religious minority groups. Major topics include racial formation, ethnic identity, citizenship, suffrage, inequality in political participation and representation, and interracial conflict and coalition building. Current politics and policy debates affecting racial and ethnic minority groups such as voting rights, affirmative action, bilingual education, criminal justice, and immigration reform will be also covered to the great extent.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the complex ways racial and ethnic identities are constructed by the society and asserted by individuals,
2. analyze how race and ethnicity have been defined and employed by American political institutions and actors,
3. examine the contemporary issues such as immigration conflicts, language education policy, police misconduct, health care, majority-minority districts, racial gerrymandering, and affirmative action with respect to its consequences to minority groups
4. articulate how the members of minority groups have responded to discrimination and inequality

Students will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Complete readings and learning materials
- Take two exams
- Participate in the discussion
- Submit the Assignment and Peer Review
- Watch the films featuring the subjects & Write a reflective essay
- Analyze the brief data covering the topics
- Present the short research on the issues

## **REQUIRES TEXTBOOK**

There is **NO required textbook** for students to purchase. This course has a site in Canvas. All course materials including the assigned readings will be uploaded to the course site. You can click on the Canvas quick link from the UWSP homepage or the address is <http://www.canvas.uwsp.edu>. Please see the course calendar at the end of this syllabus to see the list of readings assigned to each topic.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

	Weight	Due Date
Online Midterm Exam	20%	October 22 (TH)
Online Final Exam	20%	December 16 (W)
Discussion/Activities	40%	Every in-person meeting (TH) & Online meeting in Dec. 3 & Dec. 10
2 Film Analysis Papers	20%	Oct. 27 (T) & Dec. 8 (T)
Total	100%	

## GRADING SCALE

Grades will be determined according to the university's standard scale. There is no curve, so you receive what you earn.

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D+	67-69
B-	80-82	D	63-66
		F	Below 63

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

### ***A. Two Exams (20% each)***

You have two **online exams** in this course. The midterm exam (**Oct. 22**) will include materials covered in the first part of the course. The final exam (**Dec. 16**) will NOT be cumulative, and questions will cover the second half of the course. You will take the exams in Canvas, and they are going to be open at 9AM and close at 11:59PM on each scheduled date. You will be given two hours to take the test. Once you start taking the test, you are NOT allowed to take a break for return. The format of exams is a combination of multiple choice and short identification questions. We will have a **synchronous review session** before midterm and final exam. The review session for the midterm exam will be held in October 20 during the class time (12:30P-1:45PM). I will record this session and share it with class later. The time and date of the review session for the final exam will be announced later. You will also receive a **study guide** a week prior to each exam day.

### ***B. Two Film Analysis Papers (10% each)***

Throughout the semester, you will watch TWO films. The Film Presentation Weeks are scheduled for the week of October 13 and the week of November 24. You will **watch these films in the course site at Canvas**, and there will be **NO in-person meeting on Thursday during these weeks** and NO activities assigned for these weeks. You will use Thursday to work on the paper! Your task is to analyze the films in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. The essay must make a concise and

argumentative point on the given questions, and it should not simply summarize the movies, readings, lectures, and/or classroom discussions. The essence of this assignment is to incorporate learning materials to analyze the film to answer the questions. The paper should be about 1-2 pages in single space (or about 1,000 words). **If you get help from UWSP Writing Lab's Online Consultation, you will earn extra 5 points.** Late submission is not permissible unless you receive the permission from the instructor in advance. Unexcused late papers will incur a 5% (out of 100%) deduction per day. You must submit both papers. More details will be provided in the course site.

<b>Online Film Presentation Weeks in Canvas</b>		
	Film Screening Date	Paper Due
Film I	The week of Oct. 13	Oct. 27 (T) by 11:59PM
Film II	The week of Nov. 24	Dec. 8 (T) by 11:59PM

***C. Class Discussion & Activities (40%)***

For face-to-face meetings, I design a variety of activities to promote in-depth discussion about the topic covered in the given week. Class discussion and activities will provide you with an opportunity to fully understand the issues. Examples are data analysis, oral presentation, discussion, debate, 5-min. writing, and more. Throughout the semester, you will be given **thirteen activities** and your completion of these tasks will be evaluated. I will distribute the detailed instruction for each activity in class and in the course site.

**COURSE POLICIES**

***A. Readings***

Students are required to complete each week's readings BEFORE in-person class on Thursday.

***B. Canvas***

I maintain a page for this course at the Canvas site. I will record and post lectures here with other learning materials. You will take the exams in Canvas as well. After the Thanksgiving break, all classes will be held in Canvas. There will be no in-person meeting in December.

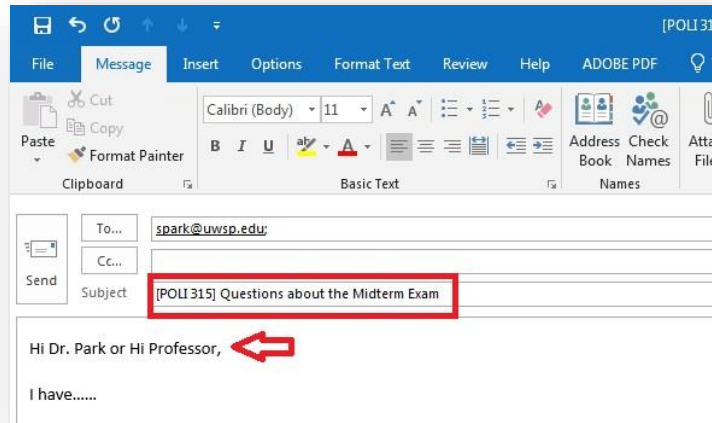
***C. Office Hours***

I will have regular office hours via Zoom on **Wednesday from 11AM to 1PM (Sep. 9-Dec. 9)**. These two hours are reserved for you. Please utilize this opportunity to make yourself clear with course materials. If my regular online office hours do not work for you, you can certainly schedule an online meeting for the different time and date. Just email me to set up the appointment. The Zoom link will be post in the course site later.

#### **D. Email Communication**

I will do my best to help making your learning experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. If you have questions, please email me via [spark@uwsp.edu](mailto:spark@uwsp.edu). I will check my email twice a day during the weekdays (in the morning & in the afternoon before 5pm). You can expect me to respond your email within 24 hours. If you don't, please email me again to remind your previous inquiry. Please note that I may not be able to respond you at late night and/or during the weekend.

When you email me, please follow the professional email format shown in the picture below:



- Indicate the course and a brief topic of your email in the subject line: [POLI 315] exam questions
- Have a proper salutation
- Brief contents

#### **E. Honesty:**

Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well in this course, not punish you with a lower grade. Talk to me if you are having a problem so I can try to help you work out a solution.

#### **F. FERPA: Important Policy on Instructional Materials**

Lecture materials and recordings for POLI 315 Minority Politics are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1]

Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm

without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

### ***G. The Muddiest Point Forum***

I create the forum where you can post questions. If you have a **general course question** (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Muddiest Point Forum found on the course homepage.

- *Do you have hard time to understand concepts or theories?*
- *Do you want to be checked if you correctly comprehend the topics?*
- *Is the paper guideline unclear to you?*

Please post these questions to the Muddiest Point Forum. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.

### ***H. Ground Rules***

This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history, theories, and policies. Students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in class. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students and me.

## Course Calendar

(Topics, readings, and schedule are subject to announced change by instructor.)

Week	Theme	Topics	Tuesday	Thursday
W1		Introduction to POLI 315		[9/3] <b>in-person</b>
W2	<i>Theoretical Framework</i>	Exploring Race & Ethnicity	[9/8] online	[9/10] <b>in-person</b>
W3		Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Groups	[9/15] online	[9/17] <b>in-person</b>
W4	<i>Sources of Conflicts</i>	Prejudice & Discrimination	[9/22] online	[9/24] <b>in-person</b>
W5		Immigration & Diversity	[9/29] online	[10/1] <b>in-person</b>
W6	<i>Political Empowerment</i>	Political Representation of Minority Groups	[10/6] online	[10/8] <b>in-person</b>
W7		<b>Film Presentation Week I*</b>	[10/13] online	[10/15] online
W8		<b>The Midterm Exam Week**</b>	[10/20] <b>a review session</b> online synchronous	[10/22] <b>the exam day</b> online
W9	<i>Major Racial and Ethnic</i>	Native Americans	[10/27] online	[10/29] <b>in-person</b>
W10	<i>Groups in the U.S.</i>	Latinos	[11/3] online	[11/5] <b>in-person</b>
W11		African Americans	[11/10] online	[11/12] <b>in-person</b>
W12		Asian Americans	[11/17] online	[11/19] <b>in-person</b>
W13		<b>Film Presentation Week II*</b>	[11/24] online	
W14	<i>Other Patterns of</i>	Women***	[12/1] online	[12/3] online
W15	<i>Dominance</i>	Religious Minority Groups***	[12/8] online	[12/10] online
		<b>The Final Exam Week**</b>	[12/14] <b>a review session (M)</b> online synchronous	[12/16] <b>the exam day (W)</b> online

\*: We will have all online classes during the Film Presentation Weeks. You will watch the film and work on the paper during these weeks.

\*\* : You will take the exam in the course site at Canvas. I will have a virtual review session in October 20 during the class time. It will be recorded and shared with the class later. The review session for the final exam is scheduled in December 14. The time will be announced later. Your final exam is scheduled in December 16, Wednesday.

\*\*\*: After the Thanksgiving break, there will be no in-person class. All learning activities will take place in the course site at Canvas.

## The List of Course Readings

### **Exploring Race & Ethnicity**

- [“Who Are We? We're Finding Out Together](#) (March 31, 2020)” from Code Switch - *NPR*
- [“Dr. Seuss Books Can Be Racist, But Students Keep Reading Them](#) (Feb. 26, 2020)” from Code Switch – *NPR*

### **Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Groups**

- “Exploring Race and Ethnicity” from *Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Richard T. Schaefer [14<sup>th</sup> ed.]

### **Prejudice & Discrimination**

- “Prejudice” & “Discrimination” from *Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Richard T. Schaefer [14th ed.]

### **Immigration & Diversity**

- “The Melting Pot and the Color Line” by Stephen Steinberg
- [“The U.S. Immigration Debate](#)” from Council on Foreign Relations
- “Immigration Politics in the 2016 Election” by Xavier Medina Vidal from *PS* (2018)

### **Political Representation of Minority Groups**

- “America’s Electoral Future: Demographic Shifts and the Future of the Trump Coalition” By Robert Griffin, Ruy Teixeira, and William H. Frey
- “Descriptive and Substantive Representation in Congress: Evidence from 80,000 Congressional Inquiries” by Kenneth Lowande, Melinda Ritchie, and Erinn Lauterbach from *American Journal of Political Science* (2019)

### **Native Americans**

- “Winnebagos, Cherokees, Apaches, and Dakotas: The Persistence of Stereotyping of American Indians in American Advertising and Brands” by Debra Merskin
- “Native American History of Voting: Events and Experiences of Indigenous Women’s Voting” by Krista Catron

### **Latinos**

- “Latino Demographic Transformation” by Rodolfo O. de la Garza, and Alan S. Yang from *Americanizing Latino Politics, Latinoizing American Politics* (2019)
- “The 2018 National Survey of Latinos in the Era of Trump” also from *Americanizing Latino Politics, Latinoizing American Politics* (2019)



### **African Americans**

- “Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex” by Frank Edwards, Hedwig Lee, and Michael Esposito from (2019) from *PNAS*
- “Introduction: Origins of Mass Incarceration” & “The War on Black Poverty” by Elizabeth Hinton from *the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*

### **Asian Americans**

- “Success Story, Japanese-American Style” by William Pettersen from *New York Times* (1966)
- “The Reality of Asian American Oppression” by Rosalind S. Chous and Joe R. Feagin from *The Myth of The Model Minority: Asian Americans Facing Racism* (2015)

### **Women**

- “Women: The Oppressed Majority” from *Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Richard T. Schaefer [14<sup>th</sup> ed.]
- “Linked Fate at the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity” by K. Jurée Capers and Candis Watts Smith from *Distinct Identities: Minority Women in U.S. Politics* (2016)

### **Religious Minority Groups**

- “Muslim and Arab Americans: Diverse Minorities” from *Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Richard T. Schaefer [14<sup>th</sup> ed.]
- “Jewish Americans: Quest to Maintain Identity” from *Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Richard T. Schaefer [14<sup>th</sup> ed.]