POLI 315 Minority Group Politics (Online)
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Fall 2022

Instructor	**Dr. Saemyi Park**
Instructor's Office	**SCI D335**
In-Person Office Hours	**T/TH 9:30AM-10:30AM** You are more than welcome to visit my regular office hours to discuss the course and/or your performance in class. Feel free to stop by my office if you are around the campus.
Online Office Hours	**M 1:00PM-3:00PM** You can also request an individual online meeting with me. Please email me at least 48 hours prior to your preferred time.
Email	spark@uwsp.edu (Please do NOT use the Canvas inbox for communication.) I will be checking my e-mail at least once a day EXCEPT for the weekend. **For the general questions** about the course, you should read the syllabus first and then use **The Muddiest Point Forum** on the course site for the unanswered questions. If your questions or concerns are personal, you should NOT use this forum but email me with your concerns and needs. Please follow the specific email format for online communication with me. I may not respond to your email if it does not meet the email format requirement. Please read the email communication guideline carefully on page 6.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the students to the dynamics of race and ethnicity in United States. It specifically examines the role of race and ethnicity in American politics by focusing on the contemporary political experiences of the four major racial and ethnic minority groups (Black and African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans) and their interactions with the dominant racial group (non-Hispanic whites) in the United States. This course utilizes an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates theoretical frameworks and empirical data from the different disciplines to understand concepts of race and ethnic identity. We will also investigate other patterns of dominance with a focus on gender, sexuality, and religious minority groups. Major topics include racial formation, racial and ethnic identity, immigration and citizenship, suffrage, inequality in political participation and representation, and interracial conflict and coalition building. Current politics and policy debates affecting minority groups such as voting rights, affirmative action, bilingual education, criminal justice reform, and immigration reform will be covered to the great extent.

Student Learning Outcome

At the end of 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, redistricting, 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 quizzes
- Participate in the discussion
- Submit Assignments and Peer Review
- Watch the films featuring the subjects & Write a reflective essay
- Analyze the brief data covering the topics
- Conduct the research project & Record an oral presentation
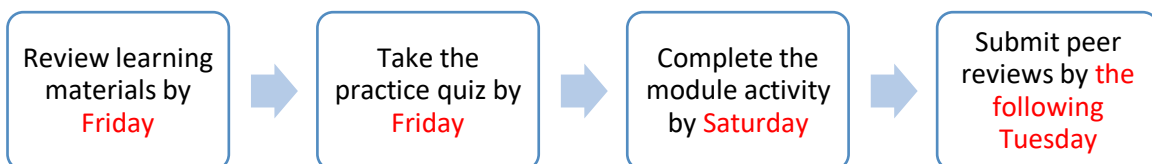
REQUIRES READING

There is **NO required textbook** for students to purchase. Instead, you will be asked to read the assigned readings each week. You can expect that about two or three scholarship articles will be assigned for the module's subject. All course materials including the readings will be uploaded to the course site.

STUDENTS REPONSIBILITIES & REQUREIEMTNS

Since this is an online class, there is much more responsibility placed on the student in terms of active involvement and participation in class. You are required to log in to the course website at Canvas regularly and complete the required work in a timely manner. Please note that this syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. If so, any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email. Please make sure to check Canvas as well as your UWSP email for corrections or updates to the syllabus. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how I assist your learning. You can request a zoom meeting with me if you put it at least 48 hours in advance. I am here to help you!

COURSE FORMAT

There are 15 modules in this course, which are structured in a similar way so that you will know what you are expected to do for each module.

Review learning materials by Friday	→	Take the practice quiz by Friday	→	Complete the module activity by Saturday	→	Submit peer reviews by the following Tuesday

First, you will review learning materials by Friday before completing any assignment. For a maximum outcome, please read the assigned readings before you begin the lesson. Learning materials include a) PowerPoint slides with my brief lecture, b) video or audio segments, c) an external website or data repository, d) new articles featuring the subject, and/or e) documents from the government and/or institutes. Please keep in mind that whether or not you complete all learning materials are recorded and is a part of your grade. In addition, all required work for the course must have references to learning materials.

Second, you will take a practice quiz by Friday in each module. This quiz is a learning tool to help you see how well you understand the subjects covered in the module. You will have 13 practice tests (including the syllabus quiz), and the format of this quiz is a combination of multiple-choice questions, true-or-false questions, multiple answer questions, and fill-in-the-blank questions. There will be 10 questions, and the quiz is worth 10 points. You will have **one attempt** to take a quiz, but there is not time limit.

Third, you will complete the assignment or activity by Saturday. The module activity could be the discussion forum where you are invited to express your opinion or a brief analysis of the given data or something else that is related to the topic of the module. Whatever the activity is, clear instructions will be provided in the module. Reviewing the assigned readings and learning materials is sufficient to complete a module activity.

Finally, you will read and respond to TWO other students for the module activity by the following Tuesday. For each module activity, you are also asked to review two other students' assignments. It is designed to promote in-depth discussion and "in-person feeling" of interaction between peers. Once you submit the module activity by its deadline, you will be automatically assigned to two students. You will read these students' posts and offer constructive and respectful feedback. Simple expressions and compliments such as "you did a good job!" and "I agree with you." will NOT count for peer reviews. You should comment on the contents of your classmate's activity by sharing what you newly learn from it and whether you agree with your peer's analysis and arguments. For more information, please read the page "The Information about Peer Review Requirements" on the course site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Points
Quiz	**130 pts**
Syllabus Quiz	10 pts
12 Practice Quizzes	120 pts
Module Activities	**130 pts**
Introduce Yourself Forum	10 pts
12 Module Assignments	120 pts
Peer Reviews	**130 pts**
on Introduce Yourself Forum	10 pts
on 12 Module Assignments	120 pts
Analytical Paper	**30 pts**
Final Project	**30 pts**
Total	**450 pts**

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined according to the university's standard scale. If you meet the basic requirements for assignments, you can expect to pass the course. If you want an A or B, you need to go above and beyond the exact requirements for an assignment. There is NO curve.

Criteria	Letter Grade	Points Range
Outstanding	A	423 to 450 points
	A-	405 to 422 points
Above average	B+	392 to 404 points
	B	373 to 391 points
	B-	360 to 372 points
Average	C+	346 to 359 points
	C	328 to 345 points
	C-	315 to 327 points
Below average	D+	301 to 314 points
	D	283 to 300 points
Unsatisfactory	F	232 points and below

Meeting the due dates for the required work is critical to passing the course. Although the volume of weekly activity is not heavy, you are asked to be diligent to complete a module work each week. If you miss one week's assignment, it would be a burden for you because you cannot move on to the next module unless your missing work is submitted. Please make sure to check the course calendar in Canvas for the deadlines and make every effort to respect them. Please note that you cannot receive a passing grade if you have incomplete assignments that are more than 30% of the total coursework.

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Grades section of the Canvas course. Look at your recent feedback on the home page or click on the Grades link to view your points. I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete - typically 5-7 days following the completion of a module. You will receive a notification from Canvas when new grades are posted depending on your notification settings.

ASSIGNMENTS DESCRIPTIONS

In addition to the weekly module activities, there are two assignments that must be submitted by the relevant deadlines.

A. Film Analysis Paper

Throughout the semester, you will watch TWO films in light of the learning materials and assigned readings for this course. The film presentation is scheduled for Module 7 (the week of Oct. 17) and Module 12 (the week of Mov. 21). You will choose ONE film and are free to write on any topic related to minority group politics addressed in the film, as long as you are able to incorporate and demonstrate your thorough understanding of the learning materials. Please keep in mind that this

assignment is NOT a film review. You should not discuss if you like or dislike the film. Instead, you will find the theme that is relevant to our class topics and develop the thesis statement to lay out your thoughts on many pressing questions about minority group politics. Please read the full instruction in Canvas for more details. You can see a grading rubric and the submission page that is synched with TurnItIn.com. This site allows you to check if your paper has any texts and contents without proper citation.

B. Final Project

During the final exam week, you are asked to share the research project that analyzes the important questions featuring topics in minority group politics. You will apply the theoretical concepts explored in the course to an actual case, or, if you wish, several cases to answer the questions. Your research project will be presented as a Narrated PowerPoint presentation or any other form of video recording. You can use the voice/video recording function in PowerPoint or the screen recorder program "Screencast-O-Matic," which is free and easy to use. Your presence in the recording (not just your voice) and the PowerPoint slides are the mandatory components of this assignment. Your oral presentation should be less than 7-minute long, and you will watch and respond to TWO other students' presentations. This peer review is a required component of this final project. More detailed information will be posted on the course site at Canvas in advance, so you will have sufficient time to conduct the research.

COURSE POLICIES

A. Netiquette Guidelines

This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history, theories, and policies that relate to race and ethnicity in the United States. Students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in the course. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students and me. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.
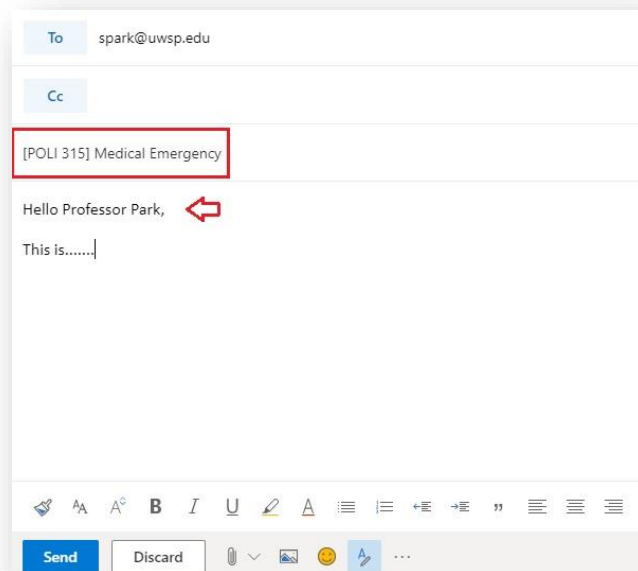
The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as 😊 can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Think and edit before you push the "Post Reply" button.

B. Email Communication

If you have a general question about the course, assignments, policies etc., please post them to **the Muddiest Point Forum** in Canvas. I will answer your question there so that other students can read it too. I will check the Muddiest Point Forum each night during the weekdays. Please utilize this forum for a quick communication with me.

If you want to communicate with me for a personal matter or if your question requires confidentiality, email is a convenient way to contact me. Please do not use the Canvas inbox. You can also email me to request an online meeting with me. While students should take advantage of this email communication opportunity with me, you should also do so in a professional manner. Please indicate the course number in a parenthesis and your question in a subject line. Please also include a salutation in your email (for instance, "Hi Professor Park," or "Hello Dr. Park").

I will NOT respond to emails that information for the questions can easily be found on the syllabus or the course site. **I will NOT respond to emails if it does not meet the communication format requirements.** I will be able to respond to your email on weekdays (not weekends), but please email me again if you do not receive my response within 48 hours.

C. Late Work

General Note: please keep in mind that this class is an online class. All assignments will be open in advance and have a sufficient deadline. This means that you can submit the module assignments earlier than the original dues. If you complete the module, you can move to the next module and complete them in advance. Therefore, late submission is technically not permissible.

Submission Error: you are responsible for attaching/submitting the correct assignment to the correct submission folder. When you submit your assignment, you should always click on the submitted file(s) to make sure the assignment is there. You can tell if it is attached by clicking on the submitted file(s) and

actually open and view the document. You also need to double check if your post is actually submitted to the discussion forum when it was a text entry. Submitting an incorrect document/post, a blank document/post, or no document/post is counted as a failure to complete the assignment on time.

Technical Difficulties: technical difficulties of the student's equipment or internet provider are not excused. When such difficulties occur, students are expected to locate an alternative source for submitting assignments, e.g., neighbor, workplace, public library, etc. Technical difficulties caused by the University or Canvas can be excused provided the student obtains documentation from technical support. Students should always have a back-up in mind for unexpected glitches in technology.

Unexcused Late Work: I understand that you may encounter unforeseen circumstances that prevent you to complete the module activities on time. To ease your burden with the dues, I will accept your late submission within 5 days from its original deadline with a 10% deduction per day. Nonmajor sicknesses that do not require your surgery and/or hospital admission will be an example of unexcused late work. In this case, will NOT require proof of document so that you can simply complete the module activity when it is possible within 5 days from its original due.

Excused Late Submission: for extremely rare cases, your late submission may be excused without penalty. As I explained, all activities will be open in advance so that you will have enough time to complete them. Nonetheless, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance for certain circumstances such as:

- The recurring events like university-sponsored activities (ROTC, UWSP athletic teams, etc.)
- MAJOR medical treatments/surgery that requires an extensive recovery time,

If it is the case, you must explain what happens and request a make-up opportunity in writing with proof of document. Then, I will verify your request on a case-by-case basis and notify you of my permission for a late submission. If your proof of document contains private information, you may want to contact UWSP DATC and/or the Dean of Student to submit your document. Then, the office will verify your excuse for me. Then, I will determine if you will be granted excused late submission. There is NO exception for this policy. Please note that this excuse can be granted to you up to three modules worth of work.

Incomplete Policy: *u*nder emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if students with serious illness or family emergencies are unable to complete 30% or more of the required work. The documents of proof will be required to submit before requesting a petition for an incomplete grade. Your instructor reserves the right to determine if students have incomplete grade. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 2 months after the final day of class.

D. Academic 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. 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. In addition, there is a great resource for your study on campus. The Tutoring-Learning Center provides a variety of services to support your needs such as Writing Lab and One-On-One Assistance for Study Skills. Please contact Learning Resource Center (715-346-3568 & tlctutor@uwsp.edu & www.uwsp.edu/tlc) for more information.

Course Calendar

Refer to the Canvas course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module.

Module	Start Date	Topic

Unit 1: The Foundations of Minority Group Politics
What is race? What is ethnicity? How have race and ethnicity became so central in American politics?

Module	Start Date	Topic
Module 1	Sept. 5	Introduction
Module 2	Sept. 12	Theoretical Framework I
Module 3	Sept. 19	Theoretical Framework II
Module 4	Sept. 26	Racial/Ethnic Consciousness and Identity

Unit 2: Political Representation & Political Participation among Minority Groups
How do political attitudes vary (or not) between racial and ethnic groups? How do individuals from different ethnoracial groups learn about politics differently? How are people represented in politics?

Module	Start Date	Topic
Module 5	Oct. 3	Demographic Change & Immigration Conflicts
Module 6	Oct. 10	Political Representation, Voting Rights & Redistricting
Module 7	Oct. 17	**Film Presentation Week I**

Unit 3: Contemporary Issues
What current events and legislative efforts are affected by race and ethnicity? How do racial attitudes shape our perceptions of contemporary issues in the U.S.?

Module	Start Date	Topic
Module 8	Oct. 24	Residential Segregation & Education Gap
Module 9	Oct. 31	Criminal Justice & Police Misconduct
Module 10	Nov. 7	Model Minority Myth & Affirmative Action
Module 11	Nov. 14	Health Disparity

Unit 4: Intersectionality and the Future of Race and Ethnicity in America
How do race, class, gender, and other individual characteristics intersect with one another and overlap? Are we currently in a post-racial or most-racial world?

Module	Start Date	Topic
Module 12	Nov. 21	**Film Presentation Week II**
Module 13	Nov. 28	Gender Minority
Module 14	Dec. 5	Sexuality Minority
Module 15	Dec. 12	Religious Minority