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Race Around the World: The Comparative Politics of Ethnic Diversity

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Introduction

This course aims to promote reflection on the interactions between the state and ethnic and racially diverse societies. Who decides what a race is? What leads to the rise and fall of racial regimes? What are the causes and effects of race-based mobilization? Should states use preferential policies such as affirmative action, or do these policies undermine the possibility of national cohesion and social peace between racial and ethnic groups? To address these questions, we will compare the United States to Brazil, India, South Africa and Western Europe. Are there lessons that can be learned from abroad that shed light on the politics of ethnicity in this country?

Requirements

Students are expected to attend class, to participate in discussion and to have completed the assigned readings. In addition, students will complete a two-page response paper every other week, responding to or raising an issue in the readings related to the themes of the course. Although these papers will not be graded as such, they will comprise a portion of the 20% participation grade. They will be due by 10:00 am of the Tuesday of class in my mail box in Munroe 213. Please print out two copies and bring one with you to class.

Students will complete two short papers on assigned topics. These papers will be given out at the end of class on Tuesdays and will be due the following Monday at 12:00 noon. Extensions will be granted for medical reasons only. The first paper (due on October 8) will be 5-6 pages long and will count for 20% of the final grade; the second paper (due on November 12) will be 6-7 pages in length and represents 25% of the final grade. There will be a 10-12 page research paper on a topic of the student's choice due at 4:00 pm on Monday, December 10 that will count for 35% of the final grade. To prepare for this paper, a topic proposal and bibliography must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday, November 2. Students will be responsible for presenting the arguments from their paper and leading class discussion during the last two weeks of the semester, which will also count toward class participation.

Summary of due dates:

Every other Tues, 10:00 am 2 pp. response paper October 8, 12:00 noon 5-6 pp short paper November 2,
12:00 noon
research paper topic proposal and bibliography November 12, 12:00 noon 6-7 pp short paper December 10,
4:00 pm 10-12 pp research paper

Response Papers

The goal of writing a response paper is to reflect actively on the reading(s) of the week. This makes it critical to go beyond a mere summary of the argument or statements of "liking" or "disliking" the readings. Response papers (of approximately 2 double-spaced pages in length) identify elements of the work that you find particularly stimulating and worthy of further discussion. This might involve a critique of or skepticism about the author's argument. It might entail making connections between readings (either from the same week, if there is more than one author, or from different weeks). It might pick out a segment of the reading and expand on its implications in other countries or at other times—something like "if the author is right,

shouldn't we expect to see the same thing in Brazil?" In sum, it is up to you how to formulate your responses to the readings, but it is worth ending the response paper with a question or two that emerge from the material that you think are worthy of your fellow students' attention and that you might like to spend time discussing in class. I will read all of your response papers each week and they will help structure class discussion. Remember, these response papers are not graded as such, so feel free to take some chances when writing them. Be sure, at the same time, to move beyond simply restating the argument and saying that you found it "interesting" or "boring" without giving deeper reasons. Try to use these as a vehicle to practice writing "mini-papers."

Research Papers

The best research paper you can write will be on a topic that fascinates you. The paper must be about the comparative politics of race, and should be based at least partly on readings that are not assigned for the class (at least 2-3 books and/or 4-6 articles, although often more). It can look deeper into an issue that we have covered in class, or it can look at an issue you are especially interested in, but one not studied in PS240.

Look in the readings for issues that jump out at you as quirky, important, or puzzling. Think about countries that interest you, whether or not they are on the syllabus, and begin finding a book or two on them to see if reading about them still holds your attention. Often it helps to formulate a question in order to drive forward a research paper. So instead of writing on "hate speech" (for example), try developing a specific question such as "why do some countries have hate speech laws and others do not?" or "do hate speech laws protect minority groups or generate backlash against them?" The question provides focus and the answer you develop is also your thesis statement.

By the end of week 8, you should have a topic idea and a working bibliography. Submit these by email on the due date and I will respond to them. You may want to (or be asked to) come to my office hours to discuss the topic further.

You are encouraged to discuss your topic and your argument with your peers from class. You may have them read drafts and comment on them. Yet the writing of your paper must be done by you alone. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the College policy on plagiarism and be sure to cite sources for rhetoric, facts and ideas that you employ in your paper.

Late Policy

To ensure that I can comment on and grade your assignments in a timely fashion (and for fairness), material turned in late will be docked a third of a grade (an A- becomes a B+, etc.) for each 24 hour period after it is due. To be clear, turning in an assignment any time during the first 24 hours after it is due is penalized a third of a grade; between 24 and 48 hours two thirds of a grade, etc. Papers submitted more than 5 days after the due date will receive a grade of F. Because email copies occasionally do not transfer properly, please turn in a printed copy in my mail box in Munroe 213. Only a note from the Dean of Students Office or the Health Center will waive the late penalty.

Readings

Books assigned for the course are available at the College Store, and are also on reserve at the Starr Library for those who do not wish to purchase them. These items can be checked out for a 2-hour period. Other (mandatory) readings will be available in the Political Science Office (Munroe 213). You may sign them out or borrow them for a limited time to make a copy, or to read as the semester goes along. Recommended readings are listed for some weeks. You may read these at your discretion, or you may wish to examine them for more detail on a particular country or topic. They may be referred to in discussions in class, but it will not be assumed that students have done the recommended reading.

Week 1 (Sept 11, 13): Introduction: Thinking about Race

Davis, F. James. 1991. *Who is Black? One Nation's Definition*. University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

Chapters 1 and 5 (pp. 1-16; 81-122). Recommended: Chapters 2, 6, and 8.

Week 2 (Sept 18, 20): Defining Outsiders: Beyond Race

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States. In *The Interpretation of Cultures*, edited by C. Geertz. New York: Basic Books; pp. 259-63.

Taylor, Donald M., and Fathali M. Moghaddam. 1994. *Theories of Intergroup Relations: International Social Psychological Perspectives*. Second ed. Westport, CT: Praeger; pp. 159-77

Noiriel, Gérard. 1994. "Civil Rights" Policy in the United States and the Policy of "Integration" in Europe: Divergent Approaches to a Similar Issue. *Journal of Policy History* 6 (1):120-39.

Weiner, Myron. 1989. India's Minorities: Who Are They? What Do They Want? In *The Indian Paradox: Essays in Indian Politics*, edited by A. Varshney. New Delhi: Sage; pp. 41-62.

Winant, Howard. 1994. *Racial Conditions*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press; chapter 9; pp. 130-140.

Week 3 (Sept 25, 27): Racial Regimes—The United States

Woodward, C. Van. 1974. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. New York: Oxford University Press; Introduction through chapter 4 (pp. 3-147).

Week 4 (Oct 2, 4): Racial Regimes Compared—South Africa and Brazil

First paper assigned: 5-6 pp.

Marx, Anthony W. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa and Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; chapters 1, 5, 7 (pp. 1-25, 84-119, 158-90).

Mandela, Nelson. 1995. *Long Walk to Freedom*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company; part 3 (pp. 93-140).

Week 5 (Oct 9, 11): Race Movements—The United States

McAdam, Doug. 1988. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; introduction, chapters 1-4, 6-7, 9.

Week 6 (Oct 16): Race Movements Compared

Marx, Anthony W. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa and Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; chapters 8, 10 (pp. 191-216, 250-266).

Andrews, George Reid. 1992. Black Political Protest in São Paulo, 1888-1988. *Journal of Latin American Studies* 24:147-71.

Weiner, Myron. 1989. India's Minorities: Who Are They? What Do They Want? In *The Indian Paradox: Essays in Indian Politics*, edited by A. Varshney. New Delhi: Sage; pp. 62-75.

Soysal, Yasemin. 1994. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; pp. 36-41 and chapter 6 (pp. 84-118).

Week 7 (Oct 23): Race Movements Compared, Cont'd

Review the reading from week 5 and especially from week 6—please be prepared to discuss it.

Week 7 (Oct 25): Preferential Policies—The Rise of Affirmative Action in the USA

Skrentny, John David. 1996. *The Ironies of Affirmative Action: Politics, Culture, and Justice in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; chapters 1, 2 (pp. 19; 34-35), 3, 4, 5, 6 (pp. 145-47; 159-61), 7, 8.

Week 8 (Oct 30, Nov 1): Preferential Policies Abroad

Horowitz, Donald L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. Berkeley: University of California Press; chapter 16 (pp. 653-680).