

# The Graduate School of Political Management

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs**  
Spring Semester  
January 13 – April 27

**Politics and Race**  
LGAF. 6240. LH5  
3.0 Credits

**Wednesday 6pm – 8pm**  
**Hall of States**

## **BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

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**Instructor:** Reverend Professor Quardricos Bernard Driskell, Morehouse College (BA); Harvard University (M.T.S.); The George Washington University (M.P.S, Legislative Affairs, PACs & Political Management)

### **Contact Information**

Email Address: [qbd@gwu.edu](mailto:qbd@gwu.edu)

### **Communication**

I am available via email or phone, though it is best to reach me via email. I will respond within 24 hours. Also, note, I am available before/after class, but only by appointment.

### **Blackboard Site**

A Blackboard course site has been set up for this course. Each student is expected to check the site throughout the semester, as Blackboard will be the primary venue for outside classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Students can access the course site at <https://blackboard.gwu.edu>. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or [helpdesk.gwu.edu](http://helpdesk.gwu.edu).

### **Academic Integrity**

All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at <http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity>.

### **University Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays**

- Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.

- Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.
- Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

### **Support for Students with Disabilities**

GW's Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations.

Additional information is available at <http://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/>.

### **Title IX: Confidentiality and Responsible Employee Statement**

The George Washington University (GWU) and its faculty are committed to helping create a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. GWU strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support and report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty members are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Mental Health Services through Colonial Health (counselors are available 24/7 at 202-994-5300 or you can make an appointment to see a counselor in person.). For more information about reporting options and resources at GWU and the community, please visit <https://haven.gwu.edu/>.

### **In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class**

If we experience an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we have to leave here, we will meet at **[in front of the Hall of States]** in order to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University's operating status:

<http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

### **Attendance Policy**

Class participation will be key for your learning. My goal is to have you discussing the material and learning from each other much more than I lecture. Perfect attendance is not enough to earn an A for participation – you must also actively participate in class discussions and activities. Class discussions, especially at the beginning of the course, will give you practice using the vocabulary and solidifying your understanding of key concepts. As we move through the course, our class discussions will work on deepening your understanding of the material by challenging you to apply the basic facts to current events and other examples and critically evaluate evidence. I will provide you with a rubric that I will use to evaluate your contributions to our class discussions.

### **Out-of-Class/ Independent Learning Expectation**

Over the course of the semester, students will spend at least 2 hours (100 minutes) per week in class. Required reading for the class meetings and written response papers or projects are expected to take up, on average, 7 hours (350 minutes) per week. Over the course of the semester, students will spend 25 hours in instructional time and 87.5 hours preparing for class.

### **Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW's online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting any/all of the following:

Dr. Steven Billet  
Director, Legislative Affairs Program  
[sbillet@gwu.edu](mailto:sbillet@gwu.edu) | 202-994-1149

Dr. Jack Prostko  
Associate Dean for Learning and Faculty  
Development  
College of Professional Studies  
[jackp@gwu.edu](mailto:jackp@gwu.edu) | 202-994-3592

Suzanne Farrand  
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM  
[sfarrand@gwu.edu](mailto:sfarrand@gwu.edu) | 202-994-9309

## **THE COURSE**

### **Legislative Affairs Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the Master's degree in Legislative Affairs, students will:

1. Gain both theoretical and practical knowledge related to the U.S. Congress, general issues in the legislative arena, and how to effectively advance legislation;
2. Hone their oral and written communication skills in both theoretical and technical aspects of legislative affairs;
3. Be able to conduct cutting-edge research and engage in effective problem solving by learning critical thinking skills;
4. Learn how to work effectively with others, the value of collaborative work, and will understand ethical issues involved in the legislative arena.

### **Graduate School Expectations**

Students enrolled in a graduate program should take their academic responsibilities seriously and be prepared to meet the following expectations:

1. Utilize effective time management skills to complete and submit their assignments on their required due dates and times.
2. Have attained a mastery of written communication skills including proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and word usage.
3. Understand how to properly format in-text citations and references for resources and information integrated into their written assignments.

### **Course Description and Overview**

Politics is “who gets what, when, and how” (Lasswell 1939). In this course, *Politics and Race in American Politics* we will consider how race and ethnicity affect who gets what, when, and how. We will begin by surveying the historical issues of racial and ethnic minority politics in the United States. In so doing, we will consider why race and ethnicity can be political. From this foundation, we will explore how race and ethnicity affect political attitudes, participation, voting, public policy and representation. We will conclude this course by evaluating whether we are in a post-racial or most-racial society and will examine widely divergent understandings of America's “race problem.” both to provide a more informed assessment of what the problems are as well as to evaluate various solutions.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Students should be able to explain the foundations of the complicated connections between race and ethnicity in American politics, past and present. Students should be able to identify and describe patterns in political attitudes, participation, policy and representation between different racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Students should be able to explain political science theories and praxis that address why these patterns exist. Students will be able to identify and ideally create solutions to the racial-political tension.

1. A strong substantive understanding of how race and ethnicity are connected to the American political system, and how racial difference shapes American political institutions and our civil and public life more broadly.
2. Critical thinking skills about contemporary racial-political issues.
3. Be able to comprehensively explain why and how race can be political and how that plays out in political representation and policy.
4. Explore and create practical policy solutions to address the “race problem” in the United States.

### **Course Requirements**

Politics is a dialogical enterprise, meaning that most of the work completed in politics occurs in dialogue and interacting with others. As students engaging in the study of applied politics and policy, you are expected to come to class to discuss assigned texts *and* engage in class discussions on a regular basis. Participation is a measure of the (voluntarily) contributions students make to the classroom discussions.

Please keep in mind that participation is not the same as attendance. Please also keep in mind that there is a difference between productive and unproductive contributions of which the latter is strongly discouraged. It is an important aspect of my teaching philosophy to create a learning space that welcomes all voices. Therefore, the class will not end without each student contributing something to the discussion. This is a very important aspect of class participation.

**A Note on Classroom Etiquette:** *Since we will discuss sensitive and often controversial topics; to create a healthy and productive environment conducive to proper class discussion students*

*are asked to do the following: (1) think through the thought before you voice the thought, this does not mean that you are prohibited from asking “stupid” questions but that you should tailor your contributions in a way that prevents people from becoming easily offended; (2) be respectful to all views shared by others--this class should be a safe environment for students to express their ideas openly, even if they oppose majority opinions; (3) be a sensitive speaker and active listener– students should not interrupt other students nor should they personally attack students.*

### **Teaching Philosophy**

My approach to teaching is guided by three fundamental goals. First, I aim to foster the development of critical thinking skills. Second, I seek to prepare students to achieve their academic and professional goals by giving them opportunities to enhance the skillsets that most closely relate to their goals. Third, I strive to promote an inclusive classroom in which students of all demographic, ideological, or political backgrounds are comfortable engaging with one another in class discussions.

### **My Expectations**

I have high expectations for my students! This class will be challenging, but I am confident that you can succeed if you take the assignments seriously, actively engage with the material—and each other—in class, and seek help when needed. My goal is to make this course, including lectures and assignments, worth your time. I expect that you read the assigned material and complete reading assignments before the beginning of class. I acknowledge that everyone learns differently, which is why I assess learning in a variety of ways. However, if at any point you feel that you are falling behind in the course, I encourage—and expect—you to talk with me so that we can work out a solution together. The sooner you come to me, the better I will be able to help you. This class covers a variety of sensitive topics. I expect my students to be respectful of one another in class discussions and written material. I encourage students to express disagreement—in fact, we will learn tremendously from hearing diverse perspectives. However, I expect that students will communicate their disagreement respectfully and in line with the principles of community and etiquette.

### **Reading Summaries and Evaluations**

You will be required to hand-in **TWO** two-page (single-spaced) critical assessments of the course readings. In these two-pagers, you should answer three questions, first, **very, very** briefly synthesize and summarize the main point, position, or argument of the material. Second, **heavily offer your analysis** and evaluation of the readings. How, if any, does it relate to you? Do you agree or disagree with the author’s thoughts? Why or Why not? What impact does it have regarding politics and race now or in the future? Third, how do the readings support the course objective, and what do they mean for society in understating the intersection of race and politics? Fourth, what do you recommend for the future, should we read them, or is there something else that would be better? Other voices, authors/scholars outside of course readings on this issue are welcomed and encouraged as a comparative analysis. Outside authors should not constitute the majority of your analysis. For this assignment, either you should analyze all readings, etc. in one section or you analyze, compare and contrast a one reading in one section with another. An analysis of one reading is not sufficient. **These TWO two-pagers can either be done at any time during the course before April 27, 2020.**

**Please note: Style: 12pt. Times New Roman; single-spaced; Chicago/Turabian format; • References: academic references (e.g., Wikipedia and similar sources do not count) • Analysis: Thorough, graduate-level comparative analysis of the issue.**

**Paper 1: Political-Racial Narrative (3-5 pages)**

What are your political-racial experiences (past and/or present)? Prior to the course, have you ever thought about race and politics? If so, in what context? How has, if at all, race shaped and informed your political experiences or political views? Alternatively, how has your politics influenced your views on race in politics, public policy or public life? I want you to reflect on how that influence has taken place in your own life and/or how it ought to take form in the legislative process and/or public life, if at all. There is no right or wrong answer here nor will you be judged on your race or personal narrative, but rather on your thoughtful, reflective analysis. However, you must be reflective and analytical. Though this assignment is short, it needs to show some evidence that you have spent some time reflecting on this question through your personal experiences, the readings, class discussion, etc. **This is due March 25, 2020.**

**Paper 2: Post-Racial Critique:** Your third paper is to write a 1,000-word essay responding to whether the U.S. is currently post-racial or most-racial. You should develop an original argument in response to this prompt and support that argument with evidence from class readings, lecture material, current events, and reliable news sources. You may choose a pressing aspect of America’s “race problem”. You may choose something that you care about – answer the following question: How can this problem be resolved most successfully? Please address both possible critics and proponents of your plan from class readings and discussions, as well as from other credible sources, but mainly from the course. If you take the readings seriously and incorporate the feedback from your classmates, you should be making good progress toward this paper throughout the term. While the final paper is not long in length, it must be solid in its content and well written. Concise communication is an essential skill in almost every job sector, and this is an excellent opportunity to develop that skill. This is due **April 22, 2020.**

**Paper 3: Political-Racial Engagement Project (6-18 pages)**

This assignment can take shape in several ways. This assignment is intended to be more practically focused on politics and race than theoretical. How might you apply the intersection of race and politics to your current or future work? Below are suggestions; I am open to other ideas. Happy to share past students’ work as an example. Prior approval is required.

- Write a speech on the intersection of politics and race and how it should or should not play in public life.
- Analyze a legislative bill or write one that addresses voting, racial disparities, racial inequality, “race problem,” etc.
- A policy memorandum to a member of Congress on how to engage race and politics regarding any of the topics discussed in the course (voting; race, politics and religion; how to engage a religious community, etc.)
- A messaging campaign memorandum to a real or fictional candidate (though a real candidate is preferred) on how to get the candidate to speak to the issues of race and politics, how to engage certain minority communities; win the votes of a district or state, etc.
- A case study on an advocacy organization engaged at this intersection providing a policy recommendation to improve their efforts on race or equity. List of organizations as examples:

Anti-Defamation League, NAACP, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) (This could also include an interview with organization’s leaders)

- A lobbying strategy memorandum on how to target, lobby the Tri-Caucus (Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and Congressional Hispanic Caucus) or any member of Congress.
- Opening statement or testimony on the subject of race and politics before Congress, the use of actual legislation is preferred.
- Ethnographic research in a racial-political event. You are to fully document your experience – with a full critical assessment of thoughts, feelings, recommendations, etc. You can either attend a racial-political event, forums, a community town hall during the semester. These events can be at either a church service, a forum, workshop, event, or rally, etc. Look for political and racial cues being presented during the experience. Discuss your observations and reflections. Ideally, I would like to know what event, forum, or service you are attending beforehand. Be sure you are describing and analyzing the full range of political-racial cues that we will be learning and that you reflect broadly on what you have learned from this experience. If there are any questions or concerns, please do let me know. **Ideas for paper are due on March 4; Papers are due on April 22, 2020.**

**Course Grading**

Two-Page papers (two)	200
Paper 1	100
Paper 2	200
Paper 3	400
Class Participation	100
Total	1000

\*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

**Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:**

<b>Grade*</b>	<b>Grading Standard</b>
A 94-100	Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work.
A- 90-93	Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work.
B+ 87-89	Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work.
B 83-86	Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a “B” is viewed as unacceptable.
B- 80-82	You have completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements.
C+ 77-79	Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern.
C 73-76	Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern.

C-	70-72 (lowest grade to pass)	Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc.
F	Below 70	Unacceptable performance or inability to submit the assignment.

\*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

\* Five points are deducted for each error or lack of analysis in writing assignments.

### Required Text and Learning Materials

Andrew Aoki and Okiyoshi Takeda. *Asian American Politics* (2008)

John A. Garcia. *Latino Politics in America: Community, Culture and Interests 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (2017)

Jonathan M. Metz. *Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland.* (2019)

J.D. Vance. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (2016)

Zoltan L. Hajnal. *Dangerously Divided: How Race and Class Shape Winning and Losing in American Politics Jan. 2020* \*(Please order ASAP)\*

### Additional Reading/Current Events:

In addition to the text, you will be required to maintain knowledge and understanding of current racial-political issues and events. There will be articles emailed to the class, which will be discussed in the class. I encourage you to also email articles to the class about race and politics. This is an essential part of the course that should be taken seriously. In addition to reading the newspaper, you will benefit from following other sources of racial-political news while taking this course.

### Tentative Course Calendar\*

\*The instructor reserves the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar.

### January 15: Race as a Political Concept

**Guiding questions:** What is race? How is race political? How does class affect race?

*Asian American Politics* Preface, Chapters 1 and 2

*Dangerously Divided*, Introduction pgs. 1-11

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 1

*Dying of Whiteness*, Introduction

*400 years after slavery's start, people still don't understand the true history of the US*

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2019/10/11/400-years-since-slavery-people-still-dont-understand-black-history/3913025002/?fbclid=IwAR1nmDrU-SjzPeiUWqd3v-U-2HVUfOUMAcZINnZT6F6rMsdy79KCR9LeRaU>

*Du Bois, Still Relevant in the 21st Century*

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5229725>

Watch: a Conversation with Native American on Race

<https://youtu.be/siMal6QVbIE>



The 8 identity-politics stories that shaped 2019

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/12/31/identity-politics-stories-that-shaped/>

**Secondary Read**

*The Souls of Black Folk Part 1 and XIII*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/408/408-h/408-h.htm#chap00>

*How Christians of color in Colonial Virginia became 'black'*

<https://religionnews.com/2019/12/12/how-christians-of-color-in-colonial-virginia-became-black/>

*How will History Books Remember the 2010s*

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2019/12/27/how-will-history-books-remember-the-2010s-089796>

**January 22: Discrimination and the Court**

**Guiding questions:** How do political attitudes vary (or not) between racial and ethnic groups? How do individuals from different ethno racial groups learn about politics differently? What is racism and discrimination and how do we measure them? How does ethnorace affect political participation? Why?

*Asian American Politics*, Chapter 7

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 3

*The Resurrection of America's Slums*

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/08/more-americans-are-living-in-slums/400832/>

Race Discrimination: U.S. Supreme Court Cases

<https://civilrights.findlaw.com/discrimination/race-discrimination-u-s-supreme-court-cases.html>

Morton v. Mancari,

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1973/73-362>

Plessy v. Ferguson

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1850-1900/163us537>

**Secondary Read**

*FBI report: Jews the target of overwhelming number of religious-based hate crimes*

[https://religionnews.com/2019/11/12/fbi-report-jews-the-target-of-overwhelming-number-of-religious-based-hate-crimes-2/?fbclid=IwAR2zwvvpVVeT9emBUrEW2X5M3hIreCR\\_NVIJb0HLZ0zwWqlAam2kdGdIv2gU](https://religionnews.com/2019/11/12/fbi-report-jews-the-target-of-overwhelming-number-of-religious-based-hate-crimes-2/?fbclid=IwAR2zwvvpVVeT9emBUrEW2X5M3hIreCR_NVIJb0HLZ0zwWqlAam2kdGdIv2gU)

**January 29: Blacks, Asian Americans, and Latinos as Political Groups**

**Guiding questions:** Is everyone represented? How do we measure political representation? How do racial attitudes affect political behavior? What is the impact of Black Lives Matter on policy? What about other forms of protest? What about Asian American politics? Why are ethnoracial groups viewed as a voting block?

*Asian American Politics*, Chapters 3 and 4

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapters 4, 5 and 6

*Black Voters to Black Candidates: Representation Is Not Enough*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/25/us/politics/2020-election-black-voters.html>

*Blacks have made gains in U.S. political leadership, but gaps remain*

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/>

*Opinion: Latinos Need a Voice. Where Is It?” NBC News.*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/news/opinionlatinos-need-voice-where-it-ncna771701>

*Hispanic voters are growing in power. Why are Democratic presidential candidates ignoring them?*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/hispanic-voters-are-growing-in-power-why-are-democratic-presidential-candidates-ignoring-them/2019/12/26/dbf21396-1ff9-11ea-a153-dce4b94e4249\\_story.html?utm\\_campaign=evening\\_edition&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=Newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_evening&wpm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/hispanic-voters-are-growing-in-power-why-are-democratic-presidential-candidates-ignoring-them/2019/12/26/dbf21396-1ff9-11ea-a153-dce4b94e4249_story.html?utm_campaign=evening_edition&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Newsletter&wpisrc=nl_evening&wpm=1)

*Andrew Yang Is Onstage, but Offstage, Asian-Americans Wonder Where They Fit In*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/19/us/politics/Andrew-Yang-2020-Democrats-Debate.html>

*Politicians often overlook Asian American voters. They shouldn't, especially in 2020*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/07/10/politicians-often-overlook-asian-american-voters-they-shouldnt-especially/>

## **February 5: White-Majority Political Attitudes**

**Guiding questions:** Why are political views between whites and other racial groups especially African Americans so vast differently? What are political attitudes and how do attitudes toward the political system vary between ethnoracial groups?

*Hillbilly Elegy*, Chapters 1-5

*Dying of Whiteness*, Part 1

*Obama Rejected Race-Based Politics. The Woke Left Demands It*

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/11/26/obama-rejected-race-based-politics-the-woke-left-demands-it/>

*Trump compares impeachment probe to ‘lynching,’ again prompting political firestorm around race*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-compares-impeachment-probe-to-lynching-draws-widespread-condemnation/2019/10/22/2fa24af2-f4d4-11e9-ad8b-85e2aa00b5ce\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-compares-impeachment-probe-to-lynching-draws-widespread-condemnation/2019/10/22/2fa24af2-f4d4-11e9-ad8b-85e2aa00b5ce_story.html)

*No to ‘Racial Impact Statements’*

<https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/no-racial-impact-statements>

*Biden appeals both to black voters — and to white voters suspicious of Black Lives Matter*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/02/biden-appeals-both-black-voters-white-voters-suspicious-black-lives-matter/>

## **February 12: The Media in Understanding Political Attitudes and Perspectives**

**Guiding questions:** What role does the media play in our understanding of politics and race? What about social media? How are political attitudes informed and developed? Does the media help with clarifying political attitudes? Or does the media contribute to the political-racial divide?

*Hillbilly Elegy*, Chapters 5-10

*Trump Facebook feuds: You thought arguing about the 2016 election was bad? Brace yourself for 2020*

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2019/12/13/trump-election-arguments-rage-facebook-social-media-2020/2596750001/>

*Majority of Black Americans Value Social Media For Amplifying Lesser-Known Issues*

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/05/635127389/majority-of-black-americans-value-social-media-for-amplifying-lesser-known-issue>

*Black journalists push media to cover ‘hyper-racial’ moment in politics*

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/07/29/black-journalists-racial-politics-1440628>

*George Conway: ‘If Barack Obama had done this’ Republicans would be ‘out for blood*

[https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/470239-george-conway-if-barack-obama-had-done-this-republicans-would?amp&fbclid=IwAR3rA8KbpnTqb02FUMwiLNGzcHXi0SajWCiha1\\_a-BAbSRMXSRxvDHaCcSI#referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp\\_tf=From%20%251%24s](https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/470239-george-conway-if-barack-obama-had-done-this-republicans-would?amp&fbclid=IwAR3rA8KbpnTqb02FUMwiLNGzcHXi0SajWCiha1_a-BAbSRMXSRxvDHaCcSI#referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp_tf=From%20%251%24s)

*The ‘Trump Effect’ and Evangelicals*

<https://bulletin.hds.harvard.edu/articles/springsummer2017/trump-effect-and-evangelicals>

*Pete Buttigieg Is a Lying MF*

[https://www.theroot.com/pete-buttigieg-is-a-lying-mf-1840038708?fbclid=IwAR2PZBNILKZcU4wp9SWcRW\\_bStACQ38Y2y0gMGI5J\\_iS2UCZxaNhtTB5-q4](https://www.theroot.com/pete-buttigieg-is-a-lying-mf-1840038708?fbclid=IwAR2PZBNILKZcU4wp9SWcRW_bStACQ38Y2y0gMGI5J_iS2UCZxaNhtTB5-q4)

## **February 19: The Role of Race in American Politics**

**Guiding questions:** Does race politically divide the U.S.? Is there a “race problem” in U.S. politics?

*Dying of Whiteness*, Part 2

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 6\*

*Asian American Politics*, Chapter 9

*The Invention of Hispanics: What It Says About the Politics of Race*

<https://www.heritage.org/civil-society/commentary/the-invention-hispanics-what-it-says-about-the-politics-race>

## **February 26: The Politics of Immigration**

**Guiding questions:** Why immigration policy is important? How experiences and connections to their native countries continue to shape the American experience? How do racial attitudes affect immigration policy attitudes? How do immigration laws, executive orders affect minority representation and political engagement? Immigration vs race?

*Dangerously Divided*, Chapters 5 and 6

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 9

*Asian American Politics*, Chapter 8

*Who is Hispanic?*

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/>

*Trump has united different Latino generations on one thing — voting him out*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trump-has-united-different-latino-generations-one-thing-voting-him-n1071346>

## **March 4: Race as Problem: Public Policy**

**Guiding questions:** Race as a problem? Why focus on communities of color? Why cooperation and conflict between communities of minority racial groups? Do certain ethnoracial groups win or lose over policy?

*Asian American Politics*, Chapter 6

*Dangerously Divided*, Chapter 4

*Dying of Whiteness*, Part 3

*Hillbilly Elegy*, Chapter 10-15

## **March 11: The Role of Race in the Voting Booth**

**Guiding questions:** What are voter identification laws? How do voter identification laws affect voter turnout, particularly among minorities? How will our conception of race in American politics change as the U.S. electorate changes?

*Dangerously Divided*: Chapter 1

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 10

*Did racially motivated voter suppression thwart Stacey Abrams?*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/30/did-racially-motivated-voter-suppression-thwart-stacey-abrams/>

## **March 25: Minority Representation in American Politics**

**Guiding questions:** What is representation? What is the difference between descriptive, substantive, and symbolic representation? Why does it matter? How does political participation vary between ethnoracial groups? Why? How do we participate in politics? Why? How do we measure participation?

How does political knowledge vary between ethnoracial groups? Alternatively, does it? How do we measure political knowledge?

*Dangerously Divided*, Chapter 2

*Asian American Politics*, Chapter 5

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 7

*50 Years of the Voting Rights Act: The State of Race in Politics*

<https://jointcenter.org/sites/default/files/VRA%20report.%203.5.15%20%281130%20am%29%28updated%29.pdf>

*Will Congress finally fulfill a 200-year-old promise to the Cherokee people?*

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/oct/15/congress-chokeoee-nation-kimberly-teehee>

*With so much promise, why is Cory Booker’s campaign falling flat?*

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2019-12-26/cory-booker-struggles-democratic-presidential-race>

*Why There Won’t be a Black Woman Running for President*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/04/opinion/kamala-harris-black-women.html?auth=login-email&login=email&smid=nytcore-ios-share>

### **April 1: Republican and Democratic parties Congress and Race**

**Guiding questions:** Can a Democratic control Congress shift the economic fate of racial ethnoraical groups? Does the Republican Party have an increasingly limited demographic? Can Congress through legislation reduce racial inequality that exists in the U.S.?

*Dangerously Divided, Chapters 3, 7 and 8*

*Why race has bedeviled Republicans for more than half a century*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/10/30/why-race-has-bedeviled-republicans-more-than-half-century/>

*Democrats Have the Most Racially Diverse Field Ever. The Top Tier Is All White*

[https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/29/us/politics/democratic-candidates-race.html?fbclid=IwAR2mff6zWs\\_CJtyZrRKFUhwvFVIW3VEqcMZdDaV2oRSdxC611mqON8FmH4](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/29/us/politics/democratic-candidates-race.html?fbclid=IwAR2mff6zWs_CJtyZrRKFUhwvFVIW3VEqcMZdDaV2oRSdxC611mqON8FmH4)

*Elijah Cummings knew how to walk the tightrope of racial politics*

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/25/politics/elijah-cummings-tightrope-racial-politics/index.html>

*Is conservatism dying, or is it just the GOP?*

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/is-conservatism-dying-or-is-it-just-the-gop>

*Black Republicans can’t exist in a party that accepts white nationalists*

<https://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/national-party-news/338313-the-fall-of-political-conservatism-from-a-black>

### **Secondary Read**

*Congressional Black Caucus has a duty to meet with President Trump*

<https://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/lawmaker-news/339606-congressional-black-caucus-has-a-duty-to-meet-with-trump>

## April 8

### Guest Speaker

*K Street executives under pressure on diversity*

[https://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/business-a-lobbying/468013-k-street-executives-under-pressure-on-diversity?utm\\_source&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=25719&fbclid=IwAR2kzIF-MrDUH6XrpgOdOC0bLZ\\_9eTSnrShO9IdaZNxJIPoEDDvVmfzQ0bM](https://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/business-a-lobbying/468013-k-street-executives-under-pressure-on-diversity?utm_source&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25719&fbclid=IwAR2kzIF-MrDUH6XrpgOdOC0bLZ_9eTSnrShO9IdaZNxJIPoEDDvVmfzQ0bM)

## April 15: Race Relations in America in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Politics

**Guiding questions:** What contributed to the election of Presidents Obama and Trump?

Where are we now? Where are we going? How does racial campaign messaging impact political participation and vote choice? Did racial attitudes affect voter choice in 2008, 2012, and 2016? How and why?

*Latino Politics in America*, Chapter 11 &12

*Watch and Listen to President Obama's a "More Perfect Union"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU>

Watch: "America's Original Sin"

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2016/01/29/january-29-2016-americas-original-sin/28859/>

AND

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/video/page/2/#28906>

*10 demographic trends that are shaping the U.S. and the world.*

<http://www.pewresearch.org/facttank/2016/03/31/10-demographic-trends-that-areshaping-the-u-s-and-the-world/>

*Why America needed Donald Trump*

<https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/472155-why-america-needed-donald-trump>

*How big a factor is race in state politics?*

<https://www.dailyleader.com/2019/12/04/how-big-a-factor-is-race-in-state-politics/>

*Bill Barr Think America is going to Hell*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/29/opinion/william-barr-trump.html>

## Secondary Read

*How Ralph Northam Came Back from the Political Dead*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-ralph-northam-came-back-from-the-political-dead/2019/12/27/941e4a46-282b-11ea-b2ca-2e72667c1741\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-ralph-northam-came-back-from-the-political-dead/2019/12/27/941e4a46-282b-11ea-b2ca-2e72667c1741_story.html)

## April 22: Contemporary Issues and the Future of Race and Ethnicity in America

**Guiding questions:** 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.?

What role did race and ethnicity play in recent elections? Are we currently in a post-racial or most-racial world? How do felon (dis)enfranchisement laws affect voter turnout, particularly among minorities?

*Dangerously Divided*, Chapter 9

*Our Nation Is Not Yet Cleansed of Racism. Here's What We Should Do*

<https://www.heritage.org/civil-rights/commentary/our-nation-not-yet-cleansed-racism-heres-what-we-should-do>

*Equal Justice Initiative*

<https://eji.org/about/>

*If People Were Paid by Ability, Inequality Would Plummet*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/08/upshot/inequality-paying-by-ability.html?fbclid=IwAR0VKU58EoNF3swGtP3rDMOm7o8DWKdHucwpUvwwLwMRv6Exm7YHIRVt9Cc>

Read the following information on felon voting rights by state from the National Conference of State Legislatures: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights.aspx>

*Color and Incarceration*

<https://harvardmagazine.com/2019/09/elizabeth-hinton>

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