RACE, GENDER, AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION
POL 491 Senior Seminar
Spring Semester 2015
Tuesdays/Thurdays 10:30-11:45
BRNG 1245

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Office hours:
Tuesdays/Thurdays 12-1 p.m.,
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Despite gains made by racial and ethnic minorities in the areas of civil and voting rights, race remains a major source of cleavage in American politics. Women make up half of the population, but comprise only a fraction of the nation’s elected officials. What explains why the national U.S. legislature does not mirror the U.S. population? Do enough women and racial/ethnic minorities run for national office? Does more diversity in the legislature affect what the legislature does or how various groups are represented? This course introduces students to the concepts, theories, and methodological approaches that political scientists use to examine race, ethnic, and gender in American political representation and the intersectionalities that connect them.

REQUIRED TEXTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GRADING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis Papers (2)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequenced Paper (4 steps)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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CLASS ATTENDANCE. Regular attendance in class is required. Having more than two unexcused absences is grounds for a letter-grade reduction for the course. Reading and any additional assignments should be completed before class on the day assigned. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission. Students with special needs should meet with me early in the semester so that proper accommodations can be made.
CLASS PARTICIPATION. Participation in class discussion accounts for a significant portion, 15%, of your final grade. You will earn a participation grade during each class meeting; therefore, come to class prepared to add your informed two cents. Each student will lead class discussion as part of a group at least once during the semester, depending on the rotation schedule. Each discussion leader is expected to complete all of the readings for the week even if discussion duties are shared. Quality counts as well as quantity; empty discussion will be reflected in the grade. Be well-informed. Be interesting. Be provocative. Have fun. Above all else, be a positive contributor to class discussion. (Hint: Discussion weeks are also good weeks to write short papers.)

SHORT ASSIGNMENTS. A variety of short assignments will be made available during the semester. Short assignments may include short response papers (1-2 pages), biographical sketches, and/or quizzes. The frequency of quizzes is inversely related to the quality of class discussion; as quality increases, the likelihood of a quiz decreases and vice versa. Expect to have at least 3 short assignments and/or quizzes during the semester. In general, short assignments cannot be made-up, so plan accordingly. Short assignments and quizzes will be used to calculate 10% of your final grade.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPERS. Two (2) critical analysis papers (CAPs) will be used to calculate 15% of your final grade. CAPs should address a central question in the readings, critically evaluate the readings, and/or analyze underlying issues in the readings. Students should demonstrate an understanding of the major points presented in the readings and the evidence offered in support of those points. Papers should follow proper writing, spelling, and grammar rules, and be 2-3 pages in length with 1-inch margins and a 12-point font. You may choose the weeks when you submit a short paper. At least one CAP must be submitted prior to midterm (on or before March 3). CAPs should be uploaded to Blackboard Learn prior to class on the day the readings are first discussed in class.

SEQUENCED ANALYTICAL RESEARCH PAPER. Your final research paper will build on a series of steps shown below. Each step is worth 5% of your grade for a total of 20%. Each step of the papers should be uploaded to a folder in BL for review and can be used in whole or part to complete your final papers. Papers sequencing:
1) Topic               March 3
2) Research Overview/Abstract March 12
3) Annotated Bibliography       March 26
4) Literature Review            April 9
5) In-class Presentation        April 21, 23, 28
6) Consultations (by appt.)     April 27-May 1

ORAL PRESENTATION. Each student will present a work-in progress presentation on his or her research project prior at the end of the semester. This presentation counts as 15% of your final course grade.
RESEARCH PAPER. An original research paper will be used to calculate 25% of your final grade. Papers should follow proper writing, spelling, and grammar rules, and be 8-10 pages in length with 1-inch margins and a 12-point font. Research papers should address a research topic that you find interesting. The final research paper should be posted on Blackboard Learn before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 8.

ACADEMIC HONESTY. You are expected to turn in material that you have completed yourself. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Both cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that will be reported for disciplinary action. Please refer to the University Handbook and/or speak with the instructors if you have any questions in this area.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS
(Excerpt from the Office of the Dean of Students)

Purdue University values intellectual integrity and the highest standards of academic conduct. To be prepared to meet societal needs as leaders and role models, students must be educated in an ethical learning environment that promotes a high standard of honor in scholastic work. Academic dishonesty undermines institutional integrity and threatens the academic fabric of Purdue University. Dishonesty is not an acceptable avenue to success. It diminishes the quality of a Purdue education, which is valued because of Purdue’s high academic standards.

DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Section B-2-a, Code of Student Conduct] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972] http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php

MAJOR CAMPUS EMERGENCIES. Safety concerns, inclement weather, and other issues may infrequently require that class be cancelled and/or a revision in the syllabus. Per university policy: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Whenever possible, you will be alerted to any such changes via email, Blackboard, or announcement in class. Please pay attention and make any necessary adjustments. See instructor with any questions or concerns.
COURSE OUTLINE

Jan 13
Introduction and Course Overview

Descriptive Representation
Jan 15

Jan 20

Intersectionality
Jan 22

Jan 27
Brown, Sisters in the Statehouse, pp. 1-88

Jan 29
Brown, Sisters in the Statehouse, pp. 89-184

Black and Latino Descriptive Representation

Feb 3, 5
Tate, Black Faces in the Mirror, pp. 1-70

Feb 10, 12
Tate, Black Faces in the Mirror, pp. 71-110

Feb 17, 19
Tate, Black Faces in the Mirror, pp.111-182

Feb 24, 26
Minta, Oversight, pp. 1-53

Mar 3, 5
Minta, Oversight, pp. 54-123
Research topic due March 3 / Last day to submit CAP #1

Mar 10, 12
Grose, Congress in Black and White, pp. 1-86
Research abstract due March 12
Spring Break
Mar 16-21

Mar 24, 26
Grose, Congress in Black and White, pp. 87-186
Annotated bibliography due March 26

Mar 31, Apr 2
Hero and Preuhs, Black and Latino Relations, pp. 1-113

Apr 7, 9
Hero and Preuhs, Black and Latino Relations, pp. 114-213
Literature Review due Apr 9

Apr 14
Last day to submit CAP #2

No Class
Apr 16
Professor at Midwest Political Science Association Conference

Class Presentations
Apr 21, 23, 28
Paper consultations Apr 27-May 1

Course Wrap-up
Apr 30

May 8
Upload final research papers on Blackboard Learn by 11:59 p.m.