

Chc/Lat 147
S' 04

**Chicano/Latino Studies 147/African American Studies 151/
Asian American Studies 132/Political Science 124C
Comparative Minority Politics:
Electoral Politics as Institutionalized Racism
Spring 2004: Tuesday-Thursday 3:30-5:00pm, SE 1306**

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Goals and objectives

Racism, or more specifically modern racism, as expressed by neo-conservative intellectuals and politicians relies on special language or "code words." These indirect ideological attacks serve to transform and change the political landscape. Propositions in California electoral politics have played a significant role in actualizing racial ideology. What are the costs of these ballot box initiatives? Are we headed, as a society, towards similar ends as what occurred in Rwanda in 1994 or Germany in 1938? Language, rhetoric and discourse will be central to our analyses of "politics," "identities" and "communities/populations."

Format

This course uses various academic perspectives. I will be using a comparative Ethnic Studies approach to interpret California and national political trends. Furthermore, the course also draws from other interdisciplinary traditions such as African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano/Latino Studies and Critical Race Studies. Since the context of the course is the United States, it is important to understand the ways in which U.S. laws, practices and social climate impact U.S. minority groups.

Requirements

This course does not have the traditional format of midterms and a final exam; instead the assignments will be critical reactions to the readings and a final project. All of the assignments are meant for you to demonstrate your critical understanding and analysis of a particular context. Grading will be based on a standard 100-point scale (no grade curve). You must also keep your email account current since I frequently email notices and assignments for this course. Please regularly check your email records from this class with that located at the UCI website <http://e3.uci.edu/> to see old emails and attachments sent by me to the class.

Percentage breakdown:

- 10% Attendance and participation (sign-in sheet and *hint: I should probably get to know your name*)
- 40% 4 (four) critical book analysis, 3-4 pages each
- 50% Final Project (20% will be based on your topic proposal and preliminary bibliography)

Readings

Brown Tide Rising: Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse
Racial Formation in the United States: from the 1960's to the 1990's (Second Edition)

Shifting Borders: Rhetoric, Immigration, and California's Proposition 187

The Color Bind: California's Battle to End Affirmative Action

Welfare Racism: Playing the Race Card Against America's Poor

Week 1, 2 and 3: Racial Formations, Racialization Code Words, Discourse and Rhetoric

Introduction; Toward a Racial Formation Perspective; Racial Formation; The Racial State; The Great Transformation; and Conclusion

Race and Reaction, Introduction (Shifting Borders), Chapter 1 and 2 (Brown Tide Rising), Chapter 5 (Welfare Racism)

Week 4 and 5: Shifting Borders

Chapters 2-7 and appendix

Week 6, 7 and 8: Brown Tide Rising

Chapter 3, Chapter 7, Chapter 8 and appendix

Chapter 6 and 7 (Welfare Racism)

Week 9 and 10: Affirmative Action, the Retreat from Race, the Shape of the River and "the Color Bind"

Chapter 1-Afterword and appendix A

Chapter 4-6 (Brown Tide Rising)

Critical Reaction Papers:

On the first page of the assignment (3-4 pages overall), you will summarize the book's goal and mission. On the remaining pages, you will analyze the success or limits of the author(s) perspective. This assignment is meant to give you the opportunity to thoroughly consider aspects of the books from your perspectives or interests. You will develop the skill of understanding the overall intended purpose of the author, followed by your assessment of certain arguments, facts, methods or approaches to the subject that you find useful or a hindrance to the author's vision.

Final paper:

The paper (10-15 pages) will critically exam a California state proposition, which is either not studied in the course or you may exam another angle of the propositions we studied in class (Prop. 187 or 209 effects on Asian, African or white Americans). During week five, your topic and a preliminary bibliography will be due. I will discuss this assignment at length in class.