

RACE, GENDER, AND POLITICS (PUP 6315)

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Location: Online
Seminar Meetings: W 3:00-6:00pm ET
Office Hours: R 3:50-6:15pm ET

DESCRIPTION

We are currently witnessing what may be the largest popular and political movement in America's history: the Movement for Black Lives. At the very least, this movement—one that has been spearheaded by Black women—should suggest that we cannot fully study and understand American politics as scholars without wrestling with the country's ongoing history with race and gender generally and the Black experience specifically. How do we as scholars of politics and policy better grapple with and critically account for this history and experience?

There are a range of topics that a seminar on race, gender, and politics can cover. There are obvious lacunas in this seminar: considering comparative contexts beyond the U.S., deeper engagement with gender politics, accounting for the experiences and struggles of other racialized groups, wrestling with Indigenous politics—to name a few. But, given the current context, this seminar is primarily focused on presenting and exploring a long arc of the Black experience in the U.S. as the empirical and theoretical basis for better examining the relationships between race, gender, class, and politics in America as social scientists. What is the broader and longer historical contexts—often forgotten—out of which the Movement for Black Lives has emerged and to which it is responding? With the presumption that some of this scholarship will be new to you, the first emphasis of the seminar is comprehension: we will aim to understand the works below on their own terms. It is only from the foundation of comprehension that we will then also explore extensions and critique. That is, how might work on the Black experience in its many forms help inform, complement, or challenge your particular scholarly, political, or policy commitments?

The seminar will draw on the panoply of research in the social sciences broadly conceived, including political theory and historical scholarship. You will accordingly be asked to engage with a range of different kinds of texts throughout this seminar, from the more publicly oriented, such as Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, to the more theoretically technical, such as Michael Dawson and Nancy Fraser's exchange on racial capitalism. Each session of Section II of this seminar will also include links to some account of contemporary events. I do not necessarily endorse the views of these articles, nor will they be the substantive focus for our seminar discussions; rather, they are meant as contextual reminders that the stakes of and debates over this scholarship are rarely merely academic or dismissible as disconnected history. Finally, we will also explore the historical role of scholarship and academia themselves in ongoing histories of race, as well as gender. How have we as social scientists been a part of not only the academic study of race and gender, but their social construction and societal power—and how might we do better moving ahead? What spaces and movements are there for scholars committed to the study of race and gender—as well as folks of color and/or women—in political science today?

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reading and Participation:** This is a graduate seminar. Simply put, your preparation and participation are pivotal for its success: I will expect you to come to class fully ready to critically engage the topic at hand and to offer questions and insights as fellow scholars. This will account for 40% of your final grade.
- **Seminar Presentation:** You are expected to open and present for one of our seminar meetings—and to do as if you were a conference discussant. This is part of the professionalization this seminar seeks to impart. Your presentation will be considered alongside your participation grade. I will discuss this further in class.
- **Final Paper:** The primary product of this seminar is a paper. You should aim to submit a first draft of a potential article or a potential dissertation chapter draft. I will work with you to determine a topic or paper that would be useful for your research at this time. The final paper, too, is a central part of the professionalization that this seminar seeks to impart. Your final paper will account for 50% of your final grade. Your work as a writing partner will account for 10% of your final grade.

We will work through your paper in the second half of the semester in a structured manner. The deadlines for the final paper are as follows:

- **Nov. 3:** Send paper proposal to me by email. I'll provide initial feedback and pair you with you a writing partner.
- **Dec. 13?:** Circulate complete draft to seminar
- **Dec. 16?:** Writing partner will present and discuss complete draft to seminar, workshop your paper in the seminar.
- **Dec. 18?:** Final paper due to me by email

I will discuss the entire process leading up to your final paper further in class.

POLICIES

- **Class Environment:** You are expected to be respectful and thoughtful to your fellow students and the professor—as is reflective of your status as graduate students. We will be covering topics that can be controversial, difficult, and even personal. I expect us all to maintain a thoughtful and open-minded environment for everyone to express their informed views. If you have concerns about any of this or feel uncomfortable with the classroom environment, please do come talk to me.
- **Zoom Policies:** You are expected to have your cameras on and to unmute yourself during the seminar meetings.
- **Privacy:** You are prohibited from recording our meetings. The seminar is meant to be a safe and private space for its formally enrolled seminar participants to openly and critically explore the topics at hand as scholars in training.

- **Tech Assistance:** If you are having tech difficulties during or outside of the seminar, you are encouraged to reach out to the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance. Visit their [website](#) or contact them at any time at helpdesk@ufl.edu or (352) 392-HELP (4357).
- **Resources:** This is a difficult time for many of us. You are always welcome to contact me regarding any concerns related to the course. In addition, the UF offers the following campus resources to all its students:
 - *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
 - *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
 - *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
 - *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- **Writing Studio:** The writing studio is also committed to helping UF students, including graduate students, meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers and is an excellent resource for you. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops, when possible.
- **Academic Honesty:** Don't plagiarize.
- **Course Evaluation:** You are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>. Please complete both these evaluations and take them seriously; they are important for improving the course.
- **Subject to Change:** This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. I will provide proper notification to you of any changes.

TEXTS

- You will need to get these texts in some form or another:
 - Walter Johnson, *The Broken Heart of America*.
 - Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formations in the United States*, 3rd Edition.
 - Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *How We Get Free*.
 - Jessica Blatt, *Race and the Making of American Political Science*.
 - Edmund Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom*.***
 - Matthew Jacobson. *Whiteness of a Different Color*.
 - Joel Olson, *Abolition of White Democracy*.
 - Khalil Gibran Muhammad, *The Condemnation of Blackness*.
 - Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*.
 - Amy Lerman and Vesla Weaver, *Arresting Citizenship*.
 - David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*.
 - Joe Soss, Richard Fording, and Sanford Schram. *Disciplining the Poor*.
 - Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*.

*** This text is also available for free online as follows through "Internet Archive." You will have to create an account at their site, completely free, before they let you "check out" the Ebook for full text access. When you follow the link below it will take you to a preview of the book that becomes full text once you log in. The create account / log in button is in the top right corner of the page: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_archive.org_details_americanslaverya00morg-5F0&d=DwIBAg&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=SQfAEG5IEJ5T9r4gpXBqMDtLanmwlsSHuNf0F2LeFrU&m=-rGRBky2Tx8vqRjZ7fZjVKQfDI5H05jrA46FecbLYVc&s=EwaTxpctbG7D7BTM5AHDj9Xa4DbpNiHJxAQDaNbJsMw&e=

SCHEDULE**Sept. 2: Intro****Sept. 9: Before and After Ferguson**

- <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/black-lives-matter-jamil-smith-1014442/>
- Walter Johnson, *The Broken Heart of America*.

I. Theories of Race and Gender**Sept. 16: Introduction to Race and Politics**

- Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formations in the United States*. (Pp. 1-158.)
- Vincent Hutchings and Nicholas Valentino, "The Centrality of Race in American Politics."
- Taeku Lee, "Race, Immigration, and the Identity-to-Politics Link."

Sept. 23: Introduction to Gender and Politics

- Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, *How We Get Free*.
- Barbara Laslett and Johanna Brenner, "Gender and Social Reproduction."
- Karen Celis, Johanna Kantola, Georgina Waylen, and S. Laurel Weldon, "Introduction."
- Mary Hawkesworth, "Sex, Gender, and Sexuality."
- Rita Kaur Dhamoon, "Feminisms."
- Karen Beckwith et al., "The Concept of Gender."

Sept. 30: Race and Gender in Political Science

- Jessica Blatt, *Race and the Making of American Political Science*.
- Nadia Brown and Nazita Lajevardi, "Building, Sustaining, and Supporting the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Community."
- Christina Greer, "The Necessity of REP Scholars and Scholarship."
- Danielle Casarez Lemi, Maricruz Osorio, Tye Rush, "Introducing POC Also Know Stuff."
- Sue Tolleson-Rinehart and Susan J. Carroll, "Far from Ideal."
- Ellen Key and Jane Sumner, "You Research Like a Girl."
- Shauna Shames and Tess Wise, "Gender, Diversity, and Methods in Political Science."
- Emily Beaulieu et al., "Women Also Know Stuff."

**Guest Speakers: Dr. Sharon Austin and Dr. Juliana Restrepo Sanín, University of Florida

II. Between Past and Present**Oct. 7: Beginnings**

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/black-history-american-democracy.html>
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/12/historians-clash-1619-project/604093/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/26/tom-cotton-slavery-necessary-evil-1619-project-new-york-times>
- Core Texts:
 - Edmund Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom*. (Pp. 1-24, 293-388).
 - Aziz Rana, *Two Faces of American Freedom*, (Pp. 1-14.)
 - Joseph Lowndes, Julie Novkov, and Dorian Warren, "Race and American political development."
 - Richard Young and Jeffrey Meiser, "Race and the dual state in the early American republic."

Oct. 14: Whiteness

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/11/21/making-america-white-again>
 - <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2020/07/01/482414/white-supremacy-returned-mainstream-politics/>
 - <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2020/08/17/one-way-counter-far-right-demilitarize-police>
- Core Texts:
 - Matthew Jacobson. *Whiteness of a Different Color*. (Pp. 1-136).
 - Joel Olson, *Abolition Of White Democracy*.

Oct. 21: After Slavery

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/prison-labor-in-america/406177/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/21/california-fires-prisons-covid-outbreaks>
- Core Texts:
 - Watch: <https://www.pbs.org/video/tpt-preview-slavery-another-name/>
 - You could alternatively also watch the full documentary here: <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/slavery-by-another-name/>
 - You could also view Ava DuVernay's "13th" on Netflix, might you have access to Netflix.
 - Khalil Gibran Muhammad, *The Condemnation of Blackness*.

Oct. 28: After Jim Crow

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/blog/prison-economy-how-do-prisons-affect-the-places-we-live/>
 - <https://www.businessinsider.com/prison-industry-boom-rural-america-2017-3>
 - <https://www.essence.com/feature/covid-19-and-mass-incarceration/>
- Core Texts:
 - Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*.

Nov. 4: A Carceral State

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/16/us/politics/florida-felons-voting-rights.html>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/06/republicans-florida-amendment-4-voting-rights>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/06/republicans-florida-amendment-4-voting-rights>
- Core Texts:
 - Amy Lerman and Vesla Weaver, *Arresting Citizenship*.

Nov. 18: Neoliberalism and Racial Capitalism

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/opinion/george-floyd-protests-looting.html>
 - <https://www.salon.com/2020/07/23/was-breonna-taylor-killing-driven-by-gentrification-studies-suggest-its-possible/>
 - <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/dismantle-racial-capitalism>
- Core Texts:
 - Watch: <http://sfonline.barnard.edu/gender-justice-and-neoliberal-transformations/what-is-neoliberalism>
 - You are also encouraged, but not required, to view the following: <http://sfonline.barnard.edu/gender-justice-and-neoliberal-transformations/paradoxes-of-neoliberalism>
 - David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. (Pp. 1-86.)
 - Michael Dawson and Megan Ming Francis, “Black Politics and the Neoliberal Racial Order”
 - Nancy Fraser, “Legitimation Crisis? On the Political Contradictions of Financialized Capitalism.”
 - Michael Dawson, “Hidden in Plain Sight.”
 - Nancy Fraser, “Expropriation and Exploitation in Racialized Capitalism.”

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Dawson, University of Chicago

Dec. 2: Neoliberal Paternalism

- Contemporary Articles:
 - https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson_police_department_report.pdf
(Focus on Report Summary.)
- Core Texts:
 - Joe Soss, Richard Fording, and Sanford Schram. *Disciplining the Poor*.

Dec. 9: The Movement for Black Lives

- Contemporary Articles:
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>
 - <https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEhvajWIRsI>
- Core Texts:
 - Visit: <https://m4bl.org/policy-platforms>.
 - Daniel Q. Gillion, *The Political Power of Protest*. (Pp. 1-38.)
 - Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*.

Dec. 16??