

# Black Politics

Political Science 504  
Winter 1999  
MW 2:30-4:30 p.m.

## Melanye Price

Office: 2049Q Derby Hall  
Telephone: 292-9661 (my office)  
292-2880 (department office)  
email: price.261@osu.edu

Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 4-5  
. Wednesdays 1-2  
and by appointment

## Course Description

In this course students will examine the relationship of African American to the American political system in order to gain a broader perspective of the American political process. Issues of leadership~ representation and strategies for empowerment will be addressed. We will consider both mainstream and less traditional forms of participation as we attempt to assess the quality of African American political empowerment. We will also consider the behavior of African Americans within political institutional settings and at various levels of government.

It is my hope that this course will provide students with a structured opportunity to struggle with the issues challenging both scholars of American politics and interested citizens. What are some of the historical dynamics that shape the relationship between African Americans and the government? How much influence and in what situations have Blacks been able to exert influence on the political system? What are some alternative forms of participation that African Americans have used when traditional channels have been closed? How have increased presence of African Americans in traditional government institutions change the face of African American politics? The attempt to address these and other similar questions will provide the foundation for course readings lectures and discussions.

Students who want to do well in this course should follow a simple but proven formula: come to class regularly and on time; pay attention and ask questions when you do not understand; read thoroughly and prior to the class period in which readings will be discussed; contribute regularly to class discussions; complete assignments carefully and in a timely manner; and finally, use office hours as a resource and feel free to contact the instructor if you are still experiencing difficulties after completion of the previously outlined steps

## ***Required Texts***

The following books are required reading and are available for purchase at S8X.

Barker, Lucius J., Mack H. Jones and Katherine Tate. 1999. *African Americans and the American Political System*, fourth edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentiss Hall.

Ture, Kwame and Charles V. Hamilton. 1967. *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*. New York: Vintage Books.

Bell, Derrick. 1992. *Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism*. New York: Basic Books.

There is also a required reading packet available at the Cop-ez located in the basement of Bricker Hall.

## ***Course Requirements and Grading***

**Participation.** Students are expected to read assigned readings prior to the class period in which they are to be discussed and should come to each class prepared to participate. Class participation will involve two components: careful and respectful attention to the contribution of classmates and regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussion that demonstrate an understanding of the readings.

**Reaction Papers .** To facilitate class discussion, students are required to submit four reaction papers about a particular day's topic and readings. due dates are assigned according to the first letter in your last name. See reading schedule. Papers must be based on the readings but can move us beyond them. Papers will not be accepted after the beginning of the class in which they are due. These papers should be one page typed double spaced in length. They are worth up to 25 points each.

**Essay/Project.** Students will be required to submit two relatively short essays/projects during the quarter. These assignments will be based on readings and class discussion, but they may also require some outside research. The first essay will require a 4-6 page explication on a topic provided by the instructor. Students will have considerable latitude in choosing a topic for the lengthier second essay. More details about the paper requirements will be distributed in class.

**Exams.** There will be a midterm on Wednesday, February 3, and a final exam will take place during finals week as scheduled by the University Registrar.

**Course Grade .** Final grades will be calculated using the following formula:

Reaction Papers	5%
Participation	150/0
Essay/Project #1	15%
Essay Project #2	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	250/0

**Late Assignments and Missed Exams.** Late assignments will be penalized one grade for each day they are late. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted. Failure to take exams at the scheduled time will result in a grade of zero. Exceptions to this policy must be cleared in advance and can only be granted when students present documentation of exceptional circumstances.

**Attendance.** Class participation is a vital component of this class; therefore, attendance is both critical and required. Attendance will be taken each class period, and students who miss more than 2 classes will find their final grades reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade for each additional absence over the 2 class limit. In contrast, students with perfect attendance records whose final grades fall in the gray zone on the border between grades will be rewarded for regular attendance.

**Academic Honesty .** All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

**Disability.** Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in a timely manner. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

**Office Hours** . If you find yourself experiencing any difficulties with the course materials or assignments, you should speak with me as soon as possible. Taking corrective steps early is a strategy that promotes mastery of the material and a desirable outcome in terms of your grade. In addition, please feel free to stop by to discuss any other course-related information or feedback you might have. I will be available in my office on Tuesdays from 4-5 and Wednesdays from 1-2. If these times are inconvenient for you, we can schedule an appointment for a time that fits into your schedule.

### ***Course Outline and Reading' Schedule***

Jan. 4	Course Introduction and Outline	
Jan. 6	Black Power	(A-F)
	Read: Jones, Mack H. "Responsibility of Black Political Scientists to the Black Community"	
	Ture and Hamilton, <u>Black Power</u> Chapters 1-4	
Jan. 11	Black Power	(G-L)
	Read: Ture and Hamilton , finish the book, including the afterward	
Jan.13	Political Power in America	
	Read: Hero, Rodney E. 1992. <i>Latinos and the U.S. Political System</i> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapter 2	
	Parenti, Micheal. "Power and Pluralism: A View From the Bottom." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 20 pp.241 -269.	
		(M-S)
Jan.18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday- - No <b>Class</b>	
Jan.20	Ideology: Integration vs. Separation	(T-Z)
	Read: King, Martin Luther. "Black Power" in <u>Where ~o We Go From Here: Chaos or Communities</u> Anthologized in <u>A Testament of Hope</u> pp.569 -597. Brooks, Roy L. "The Case for a Policy of Limited Separation" in <u>Integration or Separation</u> pp.199-213	
	Malcolm X. "The Ballot or the Bullet" in <u>Malcolm X Speaks</u> pp.2344.	
Jan.25	Everyday Forms of Resistance	(A-F)
	Read: Scott. James C. <u>~domination and the Arts of Resistance: The Hidden Transcript</u> Chapters 2 and 7 pp.17-44 and 183-201	
	Kelly, Robin ~. G. Kickin' Reality, Kickin Ballistics: Gangsta Rap and Post Industrial Los Angelesw in <u>Race Rebels: Culture. Politics and the Black Working Class</u> . Essay/Project #1 ~due	
Jan.27	Social Movements	
	Read:McAdam, Doug. <u>Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency</u> Chapters 1-3	
		(G-L)
Feb. 1	Social Movements Cont'd	
	Read: Upton, James. "The Politics of Urban Violence: Critiques and Proposals" in <u>Journal of Black Studies</u> 15: 243-258 Film	
		(M-S)
Feb. 3	MIDTERM EXAM	

- Feb. 8 Voting Rights Act T-Z)  
 Read: Grofman, Bernard, Lisa Handley, and Richard Niemi. "The Right to Vote and the Right to Representation" in Minority Representation and the Quest for Voting Equality pp 4-28.  
 Guinier, Lani. "The Triumph of Tokenism: The Voting Rights Act and the Theory of Black Electoral Success" in The Tyranny of the Majority.
- Feb.10 Leadership (A-F)  
 Read: West, Cornel. "The Crisis of Black Leadership" in Race Matters pp. 53-70  
 Smith, Robert C. "Racial Symbolism as 'Ideology' in the Post-Civil Rights Era, and a Postscript on the Clinton Administration and the 1994 Election" in We Have No Leaders.
- Feb.15 Mass Political Behavior (G-L)  
 Barker, Jones, and Tate Chapters 8 and 9
- Feb.17 Representation and Empowerment (M-S)  
 Read: Swain, Carol. Black Faces. Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress. Chapters 9-11
- Feb.22 Representation and Empowerment Cont'd (T-Z)  
 Read: Persons, Georgia A. "Black Mayoralties and the New Black Politics: From Insurgency to Racial Reconciliation" in Person's Dilemma of Black Politics pp. 38-65  
 McCormick, Joseph and Charles E. Jones. "The Conceptualization of Deracialization: Thinking Through the ~dilemma" in Person's ~dilemma of Black Politics pp.66-84
- Feb.24 MOVIE
- Mar. 1 Urban Politics (A-L)  
 Read: Barker, Jones and Tate Chapter 4  
 McClain, Paula ~. •Coalition and Competition: Patterns of Black Latino Relations in Urban Politics" in The Politics of Minority Coalitions: Race, Ethnicity and Shared Uncertainty edited by Wilbur C. Rich.
- Mar. 3 Race and Gender (M-S)  
 Read: Patricia Hill Collins Black Feminist Thought Chapter 2
- Mar. 8 The Permanence of Racism (T-Z)  
 Read: Derrick Bell Faces at the Bottom of the Well Chapters 1-5  
 Course Evaluations  
 Essay/Project #2 Due
- Mar.10 The Permanence of Racism Continued  
 Read: Faces at the Bottom of the Well Chapters 5-9