

POLS 311/AAS 311: Race Ethnicity and Politics
Hybrid/Online Course
Meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM via Zoom
Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. MaCherie M. Placide

Email: m-placide@wiu.edu allow 24-48 hours to respond

Telephone/Text (651) 246-7708¹

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 1:00—2:00 PM by Google Meets or Zoom²

COURSE OVERVIEW

Laswell (1939), describes politics as “who gets what, when, and how.” This course will examine how race and ethnicity impact who gets what, when, and how. In addition, this course will survey the historical foundations of racial and ethnic minority politics in the United States—while considering why race and ethnicity can be political. The established foundation will allow an exploration in how race and ethnicity affect political attitudes, participation and representation. This course will allow fulfillment of the following:

1. A strong substantive understanding of how race and ethnicity are connected to the American political system.
2. Critical thinking skills about contemporary political issues.
3. Written and oral communication skills focusing specifically on finding and using evidence to support your arguments in an effort to improve communication about sensitive topics.

COURSE MATERIALS

Strimic-Pawl, H. (2021). *Understanding Racism: Theories of Oppression and Discrimination*, Sage Publishing, New York.

Alexander, M. (2010). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, The New Press, New York.

¹ When contacting me (email, text, or call) let me know what course you are taking from me so I can answer your question(s). I have more than one class online.

² Email me ahead of time so I can set up a Google Meet or Zoom for us to connect.

Mills, C. (1997). *The Racial Contract*. Cornell University Press, London.³

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is a hybrid/online course meaning we will meet at scheduled times Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 10:45 am via Zoom.⁴ There will be assignments scheduled assigned with chapters and subjects. The course is divided into eight (8) modules which will include an online discussion, written assignment, and a quiz. **You will have thirteen (13) days to complete the modules that begin on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 12:00 AM.** You will have two Sundays within the thirteen days of the module. **The module will close on the second Sunday at 11:59 PM.** Check the online schedule for specific dates. Once closed the module will not reopen: therefore, I suggest that you not wait until Sunday to do all the work. Manage your time wisely because there are many chapters to cover. Your success with this class will depend on you completing **ALL** assigned exercises and exams.

Online Discussions (240 points)

Your participation will be measured through your activity with the discussion exercises. You are expected to respond in a minimum of one paragraph (ideally two or more paragraphs) to the topic. Your assigned books will be the basic source of answering the discussion question, however, you are certainly free to cite and draw on other materials (including published scholarly articles, current event articles). But you should NOT simply copy the text or any other sources, but make efforts to compose a response in your own words (thus citing references in your response). In addition, you must respond to two other student's posts to receive full points. You may post as many responses as possible to continue the discussion. However, you will be graded on the quantity (1st original post + 2 other student responses) and quality of your participation via use of a rubric. **You will earn up to 30 points for your original post plus your response to 2 other fellow student's response.**

Module Quizzes (140 points) Mid-Point Exam (100 points)

Each module will have online quizzes associated with the readings (total of 7). They will focus on terminology and concepts in a format of true/false, multiple choice. Online quizzes are timed roughly 60 to 75 minutes. **Online quizzes are worth 20 points each.**

Mid-point Exam: The midterm exam is an in-depth exercise to measure your overall understanding of the readings, discussions, written exercises, and quizzes. The exam will consist of a list of terminology and questions you will respond to. The exam will be available in Module 4 and you will have the entire 13 days to complete it. **Mid-Point exam is worth 100 points.**

³ This book can be found as an eBook at Western Online website for the POLS/AAS 311 course under "Required Reading"

⁴ We will discuss the length of time and dates on Zoom at our first meeting.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (350 points)

Each module will have a written assignment, with the exceptions of Module 4 and Module 8. The written exercises are designed to help your writing and critical thinking skills. There are six (6) written assignments and will be submitted at Western Online [Assessment-> Assignment] on or before the specified due date. **Written Assignments are worth 50 points each.**

FINAL PAPER (100 points)

This won't hurt! Yes, there is a final paper in this class. After the last year amid a pandemic, racial unrest, a pivotal presidential election, and the U.S. Capital breach—surely, there is a topic you may write about in relation to race, ethnicity and politics. This final assignment will be a 3-5 typed, double spaced with cited work paper. The question you will respond to is: ***How did the year 2020 impact racial, ethnical and political issues in the United States?*** Use the assigned textbook and books, as well as articles in this course to respond. You may also use (highly encouraged) outside cited works as well. Include in your paper how the year impacted your life and decisions. **This paper is due at the end of the semester and is worth 100 points.**

GRADING EVALUATION

Grades are determined by the point scale totaling 880. The more points you acquire the better score which is defined by the following scale.

Course Evaluation	Total Points
Online Discussions	8 @ 30 = 240
Quizzes	7 @ 20 = 140
Mid-Point Exam	100
Written Assignments	6 @ 50 = 300
Final Paper	100
Total Points	880

To determine your grade, divide your total points earned by total points of the course material, multiplied by 100.

Example: Your Total Points Earned = 870
Total Points of Course Materials = 880
 $870/880 = .988 \times 100 = 99\%$

GRADING SCALE

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	<60

COURSE POLICIES

GUIDELINES FOR CLASS COMMUNICATION

This course is delivered completely online. As such, all communications between you and the professor (me) and among students enrolled in the course will be primarily done via WIU email (I can be best reached by email at m-placide@wiu.edu). However, you may contact me by phone at (651) 246-7708 and leave a message on my voice mail if I'm not available to take your call. You may text me as well. I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours after I receive your message. That said, since all communications in our online classroom are not done in real-time, you should not expect instant responses from your fellow students and me.

PLEASE NOTE: This course is taught using online modules, which does not mean the course is easier than classes that meet in an in-class setting. As the course online shows, the course is divided into 8-modules. To take this course, you must have access to internet capabilities. **Moreover, you must login to the assigned course website (Western Online) regularly to review the course curriculum and complete assigned exercises and exams. Inabilities to gain access to Western Online because of technical difficulties are NOT ACCEPTABLE reasons for not completing assignments.**

Online communication can still be very efficient and effective tool for exchanging and sharing facts, ideas, and opinions. As you probably are aware, however, it has its downsides. It would not be very unusual to misunderstand the intent of what others write to you or post on the discussion board, since written words and expressions can be particularly ambiguous and seen as carrying multiple meanings at times, when they are presented without the help of non-verbal gestures and expressions. Thus, as a general rule, when you compose a message to share with members of the class, please do maintain a civil tone and do not use sarcastic and overly strong words. Please be sure to treat your fellow students with respect. All of us share the responsibility to keep up decency in our classroom communications.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Academic misconduct is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for failing the course regardless of your grade on other assignments. Academic misconduct includes:

1. Plagiarism including:
 - a. Turning in a paper someone else has written.
 - b. Copying directly from the book you read
 - c. Using material obtained via electronic sources without proper documentation.
 - d. Failure to properly document quotations used in your paper.

Any and all of these activities will result in an **F** for the course. The penalties for plagiarism apply whether you plagiarize inadvertently or deliberately. If you have any questions about how to cite sources, ask before you turn in your assignment.

Incomplete Policy: In accordance with University policy, incompletes will only be given in rare instances where a student cannot complete the course requirements during the semester due to circumstances beyond their control. You must keep me informed regarding such circumstances in a timely manner. However, the decision to allow an incomplete is at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information regarding academic misconduct and incomplete refer to your student handbook at <http://www.sdo.wiu.edu/handbook/handbook.pdf> Please refer to the WIU Student Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php> it is your responsibility to strictly follow this policy.

Accommodations: In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies faculty of a specific need for accommodation. It is imperative that students bring such needs to the faculty member's attention, as faculty are not legally permitted to inquire about such particular student needs. Students who require special assistance in emergency evacuations should contact their faculty to discuss emergency procedures. Contact Disability Support Services (298-2512) for additional services.

Title IX

WIU values Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibiting sex discrimination, including, sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at (309) 298-1977 or anonymous online at http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX/php>

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

The basic source of information will come from the textbook, assigned books and article readings. I have outlined the course schedule on the calendar at Western Online-this should help you with following the process (discussions, written assignments and exams).

I reserve the right to change the schedule as needed and I will notify you of any changes at Western Online (Announcements) and by email.

Module/Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s), Discussion, Written Assignment
Module 1 1/19—2/1 Zoom Meeting: Tuesday 1/19 and 1/26 @ 9:30 AM	Foundational Theories Prejudice, Discrimination, Racism, White Privilege, White Supremacy	Stmic-Pawl: Chapters 1-3 Written Assignment-1 Online Discussion-1 Quiz-1
Module 2 2/1—2/14 Zoom Meeting: Tuesday 2/2 and 2/9 @ 9:30 AM	Micro-Racism Implicit Bias Microaggressions	Stmic-Pawl: Chapters 4-5 Written Assignment-2 Online Discussion-2 Quiz-2
Module 3 2/15—2/28 Zoom Meeting: Tuesday 2/16 and 2/22@ 9:30 AM	Macro-Racism Systemic Racism Critical Race Theory	Stmic-Pawl: Chapters 6-8 Written Assignment-3 Online Discussion-3 Quiz-3
Module 4 3/1—3/14 Zoom Meeting: Tuesday 3/2 and 3/9 @ 9:30 AM	From Slavery, Jim Crow to the New Jim Crow	Stmic-Pawl: Chapters 9-11 Alexander: Introduction to Chapter 1 No Written Assignment Online Discussion-4 Mid-Point Exam⁵
Module 5 3/15—3/28 Zoom Meeting: Tuesday 3/16 and 3/23 @ 9:30 AM	More than Race Shades of Blackness Challenging Racism Intersectionality of Identify Politics	Stmic-Pawl: Chapters 12-13 Alexander: Chapters 2-3 Written Assignment-4 Online Discussion-5 Quiz-4

⁵ No quiz in this module

Module/Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s), Discussion, Written Assignment
Module 6 3/29—4/11 Zoom Meeting 3/30 and 4/6 @ 9:30 AM	Political Issues Related to Race and Ethnicity: Part 1 Racial Indifference and the Under Caste The Civil Rights Movement/Black Lives Matter	Alexander: Chapters 4-6 Written Assignment-5 Online Discussion-6 Quiz-5
Module 7 4/12—4/25 Zoom Meeting 4/13 and 4/20 @ 9:30 AM	Political Issues Related to Race and Ethnicity: Part 2 COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on race Immigration—White Backlash Racial Profiling	A First Hand Account of COVID-19 Vaccine Trials; Racial Diversity Problem (Article at Western Online) Ending Racial Profiling (Article at Western Online) Written Assignment-6 Online Discussion-7 Quiz-6
Module 8 4/18⁶—5/2 Zoom Meeting 4/20 and 4/27 @ 9:30 AM	Georgia On My Mind—Changing a Southern State from Red to Blue: 2020 Presidential Election Stacey Abrams Georgia's Black Vote	Final Paper ⁷ Online Discussion-8 Quiz-7

Modules Close May 2, 2021
There is no final exam

⁶ Module 8 Begins one week after Module 7.

⁷ No Written Assignment