

Course Description

This course is an exploration of whether and how racial and ethnic minorities are able to organize effectively and press their demands through the American political system. Specifically, we will focus on the political behavior of minority citizens, the relative strength and effect of these groups at the polls and in political office, the theory and practice of group formation as it applies to minority groups, the responsiveness of elected officials, and the legal and constitutional obstacles and instruments that provide context and shape these phenomena.

In 2007 parts of the Voting Rights Act (originally passed in 1965) are set to expire. Already there is much debate and discussion about whether and how the Act should be extended. Since this is such an important issue for minority representation, we will spend considerable time this semester discussing and studying the effects of the Voting Rights Act and the proposed alternatives.

The Web, Email, and Office Hours

I have set up a blackboard web page for the course, which you can access through NYU Home. On blackboard you will find the course syllabus, calendar, and links to reading materials as well as interactive features, which we will use for class communications.

My office is located at room 748, 726 Broadway. You can reach my office two ways: (1) enter on Broadway, take the elevator to the 6th floor, go to the left and up the stairs to the Politics Department or (2) enter at 418 Lafayette and take the elevator to the 7th floor. I will generally be available for office hours from 3 to 5 pm on Fridays. If you have a class conflict with those times, we can discuss other alternatives. I have an extremely busy schedule during the day so unfortunately I cannot schedule other times unless a student has a class conflict with the morning times. I also have online chat times on blackboard for times that students might prefer more (most afternoons on Tuesdays) but I am unable to be in the office for face to face interaction (the times are listed below). You can also email me at rbm5@nyu.edu. Normally I answer email within 24 hours of receipt on weekdays.

Online Chat Office Hours:

Date	
Tuesday, Sept. 13 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 20 th	4 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 27 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 4 th	4 to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 11 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 18 th	4 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 25 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 1 st	4 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 8 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 15 th	4 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 29 th	4 to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 6 th	2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Texts

As a field seminar the class will not be taught in a lecture format, but through class discussion of assigned readings for the day and associated assignments. Furthermore, to maximize our exposure to the wide literature on the subject, the assignments will not always be read by all the class, but instead class members will share information in discussion from other readings. These readings will be academic and typically available online (see links in class schedule below). Therefore, I have not designated particular assigned texts for the class. However, two texts and one journal article will be used for background information and occasional common readings:

1. Morton, Rebecca, forthcoming, *Analyzing Elections*, W.W. Norton Press. The text is currently in production and thus we will be forced to use (temporarily) page proofs and pdf versions of the chapters. The pdf versions of the chapters are available via blackboard and my home page. I anticipate that the published version of the text will be available later in the semester. Chapter 15 particularly concerns minority representation.
2. McClain, Paula, and Joseph Stewart, *Can We All Get Along? Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics (Dilemmas in American Politics)*, Fourth Edition, 2005, Westview Press. I recommend that you purchase this book through Amazon.com or through Barnes and Noble. Com.
3. Canon, David, "Electoral systems and the representation of minority interests in legislatures," *LEGISLATIVE STUDIES QUARTERLY* 24 (3): 331-385 AUG 1999, Stable URL via jstor: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0362-9805%28199908%2924%3A3%3C331%3AESATRO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-4>

Weekly Reading Assignments and Class Format

Each week students will be divided into two groups—Group C (for Class) and Group L (for Leader). Group L members will be given a particular assignment (there will be four different assignments each week for Group L members and generally there will be one Group L member per assignment) to read in advance of the class and will write a short four to five page double-spaced review and critique of the reading they have been assigned. There is a Forum on the Blackboard Discussion Board for each class meeting. Each Group L member will post their review/critique to the Forum for the particular class 48 hours in advance. For example, for the class meeting on Thursday, October 27th, the members of group L must post their reviews/critiques on the Discussion Board by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25th.

In the written reviews/critiques Group L members have the following responsibilities: (1) to summarize the work for the rest of the class particularly highlighting those points which are new and important; (2) to compare the work to other research on minority representation that the class has previously discussed or the Group L member is familiar with and to place the work within the larger literature; and (3) to evaluate whether the work is convincing—whether the author is successful in conveying his or her argument and what he or she could have done better to make his or her case.

All students (both Groups C and L) will be expected to read the reviews/critiques by the members of Group L plus a common reading assignment. When class convenes, the members of Group L will direct the class discussion of their readings. The format of the discussion will be as follows: Each work reviewed/critiqued by a Group L member will be the subject of approximately 30 minutes of discussion by the entire class. A Group L member who did NOT review/critique the work will facilitate the discussion.

All class members will be graded on their participation in the discussion; Group L members will be graded on their reviews/critiques as well. The first class we will divide up the dates. In some cases we will have students share an assignment so that all are Group L members the same number of times. Students are free to trade dates after these divisions as long as they get approval from the instructor in advance of the class.

Research Paper

All students are expected to produce a research paper on a topic related to minority representation in American Politics, hard copies of which are due by 5 p.m. on December 22nd. Electronic versions of the papers (either emailed or sent via drop box on Blackboard) will not be accepted. The research paper should contain original work and ideas and be written in the same style and format as a chapter in an honors thesis. Topics and proposed outlines for the paper must be approved by the instructor before November 22nd. Papers on topics not approved by that date will be given an F. Students are not permitted to submit papers for the class that they have used in previous classes or plan to submit to other classes they are taking concurrently. On Thursday, December 13th each student will give a 5 minute presentation of his or her paper to the class. Students should have an outline to share with class members at this presentation.

Grades

Course Grades will be computed on the following basis:

Weekly Reviews and Critiques	30%
Class Participation	30%
Research Paper	40%

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Note: To access the readings outside of the texts which do not have urls below, you should go to the Web of Science via Bobst Library. The url for this is at:

<https://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu/login?url=http://isiknowledge.com/wos>

You can use the web of science to then search for the citation of the article. On the right of the description of the article are links to retrieving the article online. Usually this is the link marked "NYU". If you have trouble, please ask a librarian to help you.

Date	
Thursday, Sept. 8th	Introduction to Class, General Discussion of Issues of Minority Representation, Chapter 1 of McClain and Stewart, General Discussion etc.
	Topic: What is a Minority? Who are the minorities in American Politics? What makes minorities minorities?
	Common Reading McClain and Stewart, Chapters 1 & 2
Thursday, Sept. 15th	Leader 1 Assign. Title: A brief history of race and the US-Mexican border: Tracing the trajectories of conquest Author(s): Perea JF Source: UCLA LAW REVIEW 51 (1): 283-312 OCT 2003
	Leader 2 Assign. Title: THE SUPREMACY OF EQUAL-RIGHTS - THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIAL-DISCRIMINATION IN ANTEBELLUM MASSACHUSETTS AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT Author(s): KOUSSER JM Source: NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 82 (4): 941-1010 SUM 1988
	Leader 3 Assign. Racial Violence against Asian Americans Harvard Law Review, Vol. 106, No. 8. (Jun., 1993), pp. 1926-1943. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0017-811X%28199306%29106%3A8%3C1926%3ARVAAA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-M
	Leader 4 Assign. Minority Rights in a Nation-State: The Nixon Administration's Campaign against Arab-Americans Elaine Hagopian Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol. 5, No. 1/2. (Autumn, 1975 - Winter, 1976), pp. 97-114. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0377-919X%28197523%2F197624%295%3A1%2F2%3C97%3AMRIANT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0

	Topic for Class:	Descriptive versus Substantive Representation: What Theorists Think
	Common Reading	Mansbridge, J, "Should blacks represent blacks and women represent women? A contingent "yes"," JOURNAL OF POLITICS, AUG, 1999, VL 61, IS 3, 628-657
	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Second-order diversity Author(s): Gerken HK Source: HARVARD LAW REVIEW 118 (4): 1099-1196 FEB 2005
Thursday, Sept. 22nd	Leader 2 Assign.	Goodin, RE, "Representing diversity" BRITISH JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, JUL, 2004, VL 34, Part 3, 453-468
	Leader 3 Assign.	Dovi, S, "Preferable descriptive representatives: Will just any woman, black, or Latino do? AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW, DEC, 2002, VL 9, IS 4, 729-743
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: RELATIONSHIPS OF REPRESENTATION IN VOTING-RIGHTS ACT JURISPRUDENCE Author(s): ABRAMS K Source: TEXAS LAW REVIEW 71 (7): 1409-1435 JUN 1993

	Topic for Class:	Descriptive versus Substantive Representation: What Voters Think
	Common Reading	Banducci, SA, Donovan, T, Karp, JA, "Minority representation, empowerment, and participation," JOURNAL OF POLITICS, MAY 2004, VL 66, IS 2, 534-556
	Leader 1 Assign.	Tate, K, "The political representation of blacks in Congress: Does race matter? LEGISLATIVE STUDIES QUARTERLY, NOV 2001, VL 26, IS 4, 623-638
Thursday, Sept. 29th	Leader 2 Assign.	Overby, LM, Brown, RD, Bruce, JM, Smith, CE, Winkle, JW, "Race, political empowerment, and minority perceptions of judicial fairness," SOCIAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY, JUN 2005, VL 86, IS 2, 444-462
	Leader 3 Assign.	Pantoja, AD, Segura, GM, "Does ethnicity matter? Descriptive representation in legislatures and political alienation among Latinos," SOCIAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY, JUN, PY 2003, VL 84, IS 2, 441-460
	Leader 4 Assign.	Gay, C, "Spirals of trust? The effect of descriptive representation on the relationship between citizens and their government," AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, OCT, 2002, VL 46, IS 4, 717-732

	Topic for Class:	Vote Denial and Minority Representation
	Common Reading	Title: Ballots and bullets: The exceptional history of the right to vote Author(s): Karlan PS Source: UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW REVIEW 71 (4): 1345-1372 SUM 2003
	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Race and the right to vote after Rice v. Cayetano Author(s): Katz ED Source: MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 99 (3): 491-531 DEC 2000
Thursday, Oct. 6th	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: Consent by all the governed: Reenfranchising noncitizens as partners in America's democracy Author(s): Evia G Source: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 77 (1): 151-186 NOV 2003
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: Ballot manipulation and the "menace of Negro domination": Racial threat and felon disenfranchisement in the United States, 1850-2002 Author(s): Behrens A, Uggen C, Manza J Source: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY 109 (3): 559-605 NOV 2003
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: Dual resident voting: Traditional disenfranchisement and prospects for change Author(s): Ostrow AP Source: COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 102 (7): 1954-1991 NOV 2002

	Topic for Class:	Vote Dilution I: Multimember Districts versus Single Member Districts, Majority Requirements, and Cumulative Voting
	Common Reading	Morton, Analyzing Elections, Chapter 15, Canon Review Article
Thursday, Oct. 13th	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: The changing impact of electoral structure on black representation in the South, 1970-1996 Author(s): Sass TR, Pittman BJ Source: PUBLIC CHOICE 104 (3-4): 369-388 SEP 2000
	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: BLACK SUCCESS IN LOCAL RUNOFF ELECTIONS Author(s): BULLOCK CS, SMITH AB Source: JOURNAL OF POLITICS 52 (4): 1205-1220 NOV 1990
	Leader 3 Assign.	Gerber, ER, Morton, RB, Rietz, TA, "Minority representation in multimember districts," AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW, MAR 1998, VL 92, IS 1, 127-144
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: The determinants of Hispanic representation in municipal government Author(s): Sass TR Source: SOUTHERN ECONOMIC JOURNAL 66 (3): 609-630 JAN 2000

	Topic for Class:	Vote Dilution II: Racial Gerrymandering and Majority Minority Districts
	Common Reading	Morton, Analyzing Elections, Chapters 11 & 15, Canon Review Article
	Leader 1 Assign.	Shotts, KW, "Does racial redistricting cause conservative policy outcomes? Policy preferences of southern representatives in the 1980s and 1990s," JOURNAL OF POLITICS, FEB, 2003, VL 65, IS 1, 216-226
Thursday, Oct. 20th	Leader 2 Assign.	Barreto, MA, Segura, GM, Woods, ND, "The mobilizing effect of majority-minority districts on Latino turnout," AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW, FEB 2004, VL 98, IS 1, 65-75
	Leader 3 Assign.	Epstein, D, O'Halloran, S, "Measuring the electoral and policy impact of majority-minority voting districts," AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1999, VL 43, IS 2, 367-395
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: Resolving the dilemma of minority representation Author(s): Hayden GM Source: CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 92 (6): 1589-1637 DEC 2004

	Topic for Class:	What Do We Know About Minority Voters' Choices?
	Common Reading	Title: Does the shoe fit? Testing models of participation for African-American and Latino involvement in local politics Author(s): Marschall MJ Source: URBAN AFFAIRS REVIEW 37 (2): 227-248 NOV 2001 McClain and Stewart, Chapter 3
Thursday, Oct. 27th	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Bloc voting, polarization, and the panethnic hypothesis: The case of Little Saigon Author(s): Collet C Source: JOURNAL OF POLITICS 67 (3): 907-933 AUG 2005
	Leader 2 Assign.	Barreto, MA, "Latino immigrants at the polls: Foreign-born voter turnout in the 2000 election," POLITICAL RESEARCH QUARTERLY, MAR 2005, VL 58, IS 1, 79-86
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: The political participation and engagement of muslim americans Author(s): Jamal A Source: AMERICAN POLITICS RESEARCH 33 (4): 521-544 JUL 2005
	Leader 4 Assign.	Herron, MC, Sekhon, JS, "Black candidates and black voters: Assessing the impact of candidate race on uncounted vote rates," JOURNAL OF POLITICS, FEB 2005, VL 67, IS 1, 154-177

	Topic for Class:	What Do We Know About Minorities as Elected Officials?
	Common Reading	Canon Review Article & Title: Does political incorporation matter? The impact of minority mayors over time Author(s): Pelissero JP, Holian DB, Tomaka LA Source: URBAN AFFAIRS REVIEW 36 (1): 84-92 SEP 2000 & McClain and Stewart Chapter 4
Thursday, Nov. 3rd	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Latino representation, it's direct and indirect Author(s): Kerr B, Miller W Source: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 41 (3): 1066-1071 JUL 1997
	Leader 2 Assign.	Haider-Markel, DP, Joslyn, MR, Kniss, CJ, "Minority group interests and political representation: Gay elected officials in the policy process," JOURNAL OF POLITICS, MAY 2000, VL 62, IS 2, 568-577
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: Bill sponsorship and intraracial voting among African American representatives Author(s): Whitby KJ Source: AMERICAN POLITICS RESEARCH 30 (1): 93-109 JAN 2002
	Leader 4 Assign.	Cobb, MD, Jenkins, JA, "Race and the representation of blacks' interests during reconstruction," POLITICAL RESEARCH QUARTERLY, MAR 2001, VL 54, IS 1, 181-204

	Topic for Class:	What Do We Know About Minorities as Appointed Officials?
	Common Reading	Title: Bureaucracy as a representative institution: Toward a reconciliation of bureaucratic government and democratic theory Author(s): Selden SC, Brudney JL, Kellough JE Source: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 42 (3): 717-744 JUL 1998 & McClain and Stewart Chapter 4
Thursday, Nov. 10th	Leader 1 Assign.	Asian Americans in the Public Service: Success, Diversity, and Discrimination Pan Suk Kim; Gregory B. Lewis Public Administration Review, Vol. 54, No. 3. (May - Jun., 1994), pp. 285-290. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0033-3352%28199405%2F06%2954%3A3%3C285%3AAAITPS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-V
	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: Institutional dynamics on the US Court of Appeals: Minority representation under panel decision making Author(s): Farhang S, Wawro G Source: JOURNAL OF LAW ECONOMICS & ORGANIZATION 20 (2): 299-330 OCT 2004
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: Diversity management: An exploratory assessment of minority group representation in state government Author(s): Charles J Source: PUBLIC PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT 32 (4): 561-577 WIN 2003
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: The politics of representation in the US national statistical system: origins of minority population interest group participation Author(s): Robbin A Source: JOURNAL OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION 27 (4): 431-453 JUL-AUG 2000

	Topic for Class:	Coalitions and Inter-Group Issues
	Common Reading:	McClain and Stewart Chapter 5
Thursday, Nov. 17th	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Race-based coalitions among minority groups - Afro-Caribbean immigrants and African-Americans in New York City Author(s): Rogers RR Source: URBAN AFFAIRS REVIEW 39 (3): 283-317 JAN 2004
	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: The limitations of the deracialization concept in the 2001 Los Angeles mayoral election Author(s): Austin SDW, Middleton RT Source: POLITICAL RESEARCH QUARTERLY 57 (2): 283-293 JUN 2004
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: Tapping motives and dynamics behind campaign contributions - Insights from the Asian American case Author(s): Cho WKT Source: AMERICAN POLITICS RESEARCH 30 (4): 347-383 JUL 2002
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: The impact of office on cross-racial voting - Evidence from the 1996 Milwaukee mayoral election Author(s): Longoria T Source: URBAN AFFAIRS REVIEW 34 (4): 596-603 MAR 1999

	Topic for Class:	The Future of Voting Rights Legislation I
	Common Reading	Title: Is section 5 of the Voting Rights Act a victim of its own success? Author(s): Issacharoff S Source: COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 104 (6): 1710-1731 OCT 2004
	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: Language provisions under the Voting Rights Act: How effective are they? Author(s): Jones-Correa M Source: SOCIAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY 86 (3): 549-564 SEP 2005
Thursday, Dec. 1st	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: A critical guide to Bush v. Gore scholarship Author(s): Hasen RL Source: ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 7: 297-313 2004
	Leader 3 Assign.	McLoughlin LP Gingles in limbo: Coalitional districts, party primaries and manageable vote dilution claims NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 80 (1): 312-349 APR 2005
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: Racial identity, electoral structures, and the First Amendment right of association Author(s): Charles GUE Source: CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 91 (5): 1209-1280 OCT 2003

	Topic for Class:	The Future of Voting Rights Legislation II
	Common Reading	Hutchings, VL, Valentino, NA, "The centrality of race in American politics," ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, 2004, VL 7, 383-408 and Title: America's changing color lines: Immigration, race/ethnicity, and multiracial identification Author(s): Lee J, Bean FD Source: ANNUAL REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY 30: 221-242 2004
Thursday, Dec. 8th	Leader 1 Assign.	Title: NOT BY MONEY BUT BY VIRTUE WON - VOTE TRAFFICKING AND THE VOTING-RIGHTS SYSTEM Author(s): KARLAN PS Source: VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 80 (7): 1455-1475 OCT 1994
	Leader 2 Assign.	Title: Resurrecting the white primary Author(s): Katz ED Source: UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW 153 (1): 325-392 NOV 2004
	Leader 3 Assign.	Title: But some are more equal: Race, exclusion, and campaign finance Author(s): Overton S Source: TEXAS LAW REVIEW 80 (5): 987-1056 APR 2002
	Leader 4 Assign.	Title: Connecting minorities to the Swiss Federal system: A frozen conception of representation and the problem of "requisite variety" Author(s): Papadopoulos Y Source: PUBLIUS-THE JOURNAL OF FEDERALISM 32 (3): 47-65 SUM 2002
Tuesday, Dec. 13th		Discussion of Research Papers in Class
Thursday, Dec. 22nd		HARD COPIES of Research Papers Due by 5 p.m. (Electronic Versions will not be accepted)
