

Mt. San Jacinto College
Honors Course Outline Addendum

Submitted by:	Nick Zappia	Date:	12/17/2020
Course Discipline:	Political Science		
Course Number:	PS 103H or ETHS 103H	Honors Courses End in "H"	
Title:	Honors Ethnic Politics in America	Must begin with "Honors"	

Honors Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate through critical thinking, analysis and advanced research an understanding of the impact of the American political system on ethnic groups and the role that ethnic groups play in American government and politics.
 2. Participate in group discussions to develop a better understanding of advanced literature and gain/increase tolerance of different viewpoints.
 3. Develop a desire and ability to go beyond routine classroom work to participate in more advanced analysis and/or field activities.
 4. Develop and enhance research, writing, and presentation skills.

Honors Course Content:

The topics covered in Political Science 103H are the same as those covered in Political Science 103. The honors component will ask students to dive deeper into the theories and concepts introduced in the regular course. In addition, students will be asked to evaluate, analyze, compare and contrast the theories, and controversies surrounding people of color and communities of color and thier political behavior in response to the practice of politics and government in the United States. Topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Explore how people of color and communities of color effectively press their demands through the American political system.
2. Analyze the relative strength and effect of people of color and communities of color at the polls and in political office.
3. Analyze the theory and practice of group formation as it applies to people of color and communities of color, the responsiveness of elected officials, and the legal and constitutional obstacles and instruments that provide context and shape these phenomena.

Students will complete extended research that involves the use of primary and secondary sources, be introduced to extended literature covering current political issues and trends in minority politics, and engage in group discussions with the instructor and other honors students.

Honors Course Assignments:

Honors students are required to complete all the regularly assigned work for Political Science 103 and in addition students are required to complete the requirements listed in A and B, and either C or D.

A. To extend critical thinking and analysis of critical political issues and their impact on people of color and communities of color, honors students will be assigned additional readings including journal articles, books, and/or current media publications. Book examples could include, *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi, *Borderlands/La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldua. Other examples could include, current media publications form the Atlantic, the New York Times, and the Wall

Street Journal.

B. Honors students are required to complete a research project that takes an in-depth look at critical political issues and their impact on people of color and communities of color. The research project will conform to the following guidelines: Papers should be 15-20 pages typed, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman Font, standard one inch margins. A minimum of 8-10 academic/peer reviewed sources are required. Course textbook and assigned course readings cannot account for more than 2 of the 8 required sources. Papers should follow standard APA citation and formatting guidelines. Honors students can present their research project in one of the following options

1. Write a political analysis paper that would analyze a current political issue in terms of its impact on people of color and communities of color. Analysis should include, but is not limited to the history or background of the issue, the impact on minorities as it relates to economics, culture and political access. Some examples would be white privilege, racial disparities in the economy, access to higher education, property rights, and voter rights.
2. Prepare a position paper looking at the pros and cons of a current political issue and discuss your opinion using evidence from the literature to back-up your point. Some examples would be affirmative action, police brutality, and Native American voting rights.
3. Draft a policy analysis paper that would examine a current national, state and/or local policy that impacts people of color and/or communities of color. Some examples would be immigration, public housing, and public health.
4. Write an administrative case study on the activities of a federal and/or state agency as they impact people of color and/or communities of color. Some examples would be the Border Patrol, the Justice Department and the Department of Education.
5. Attend a conference or seminar and prepare an analysis of major issues raised and conclusions reached. This option must include an interview with a major conference presenter.
6. Service Learning Project: Including but not limited to 20 hours of participation in a political organization (i.e. a campaign), or a public or community-based organization and a paper relating the knowledge and experience of the field activity to course content. Some examples would be volunteering for the NAACP, The Mexican Legal Defense Fund, United Farm Workers or the field office of a member of Congress. The choice of organization and type of participation should tie into course themes. Students choosing the service learning option will also be required to record and submit hours of participation to the instructor.

C. Honors students will write an analysis of selected films as they relate to the course theories and concepts. Students will be asked to explain how film and theory are interconnected. Films will be watched as a group or individually. Students can focus their analysis on 1 or more films. A list of potential films will be developed in consultation with the instructor. Examples include but are not limited to *Street Fight Documentary on Cory Booker (2005)*, *The New Los Angeles (2006)*, *A Class Apart (2009)*, and/or *13th (2016)*. Papers should be 3-4 pages typed, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman Font, standard one inch margins. A minimum of 1 film and three academic/peer reviewed sources are required. Course textbook cannot be used as a source. Papers should follow standard APA citation and formatting guidelines.

D. Honors students will present the findings of their selected final project (Option B). Presentations can be completed in one of the following formats:

1. 10-15-minute oral presentation with visual component
2. 10-15 movie/video/digital animation

3. Alternative option created in consultation with the instructor

At the instructors discretion, field trips to places such as, a speaker series, lecture or political campaign rally can be assigned. Students will be expected to write a brief 1-2 page reflection paper on the experience and the connection to course material.

The due date of all assignments will be determined by the instructor in consultation with the student. Consultation with the instructor for this assignment shall include at least 3 meetings per semester with the student which may include but not be limited to selection of the topic, recommendation of sources for the topic, suggestion as to depth and content of the topic, and monitoring progress of the research for the topic. In consultation with the instructor, these required meetings can include other honors student in the class to discuss their projects and share ideas.

Evaluation of Honors Course Assignments:

Honors students must successfully complete the requirements for the regular portion of the course and the honors assignments to receive honors credit. Honors assignments should be at least 25% of the final grade.

Honors assignments will be evaluated based on the students' ability to demonstrate their understanding of their selected topic(s), conduct outside research, critically analyze and synthesize information from the literature, draw conclusions from their analysis, interpret and apply theories and concepts to draw conclusion from their own opinion and those of others, and present work at a college level including formatting, grammar and spelling.

Students choosing to write the film analysis will be evaluated on thier ability to apply course concepts and theories to the themes in the film(s). Students choosing the oral presentation will be evaluated on thier ability to communicate thier findings, the organization of the presentation and the relevance of the visual component.

Additional Methods of Instruction:

Method: Group Discussions

Integration: Small group discussions will give honors students and the instructor an opportunity to share ideas and further analyze the theories and concepts presented in class lectures and readings. In addition, group discussions will be used to discuss the concepts and theories presented in the additional honors readings. The group setting can also be used to discuss progress on the honors assignments. Honors students will be required to meet with instructor at least three times during the semester.

Method: Oral Presentations

Integration: Oral presentations will provide honors students the opportunity of presenting their research projects to their honors colleagues or the regular class to facilitate the development of their presentation and communication skills.

Method: Service Learning

Integration: Service learning will allow students to gain practical experience, and apply key course concepts to real plitical experiences, through the participation in a political organization, or a public or community based organization.

Method: Field Trips

Integration: Field trips to off campus ethnic events will be used to encourage student participation in ethnic based community and political organizations and to increase their knowledge of the impact of current political trends and issues on ethnic minorities.

