

**California State University - East Bay**

Department of Political Science  
African American Politics (POSC 3335)

**WINTER 2015**

Professor Crystallee Crain

Class website: [www.professorcrain.org](http://www.professorcrain.org)  
email: *use contact link on website or blackboard*

**Course description**

The role of African Americans in state and national politics; political history of African Americans in American politics, public policy issues concerning African Americans, successes and failures of African American empowerment strategies, and electoral impact of African American votes.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Know critical thinking techniques for high level analysis and reading by interpreting different types of writing, such as textbooks, scholarly books and journal articles, case law, newspaper articles, government documents (including those that employ statistics), and original philosophical texts;
2. Be able to assess information, including demonstrating the ability to distinguish between the central and peripheral aspects of our readings, and between well-substantiated arguments and unsupported assertions about the state of black America;
3. Know how to apply community based research methods to social and political issues in the black community and in other communities of color;
4. Be able to write knowledgeably, correctly, clearly and logically about issues of race and race relations in the United States.
5. Understand the controversial conditions that define the relationship between race and the practice of equal protection under the law.

**Pedagogical Approach**

As an instructor I work with students through a participatory framework. Each student comes with skills, knowledge and experiences that are valid to any material worthy to be taught. I believe this wholeheartedly. In this class you will be asked to examine issues of race, class, ability citizenship, sexuality and other forms of difference through various philosophical and political spectrums. My goal is to unveil the truths hidden by oppression and revise ill informed stigma and stereotypes in our hearts and minds.

**Readings (available online and in the bookstore)**

- Sister Citizen - Melissa Harris Perry
- Black Liberation and Socialism - Ahmed Shawki and Ahmed Shawqi
- Black Feminist Thought - Patricia Hill Collins

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**Articles in Reader (may add others)**

*The African Past (from Before the Mayflower)*

*The Founding of Black America (from Before the Mayflower)*

*Womanism/Black Feminism - The Womanist Reader*

*Chronology: After the 13th Amendment (1865-1995)*

*The New Politics of the Great Depression (1929-1940)*

*Civil Rights Era and beyond (1961-1978)*

*The Bush, Clinton and Bush Jr Era (1992-2004)*

*The Story of Recy Taylor*

*Black Organizations for Progress (1895-1915)*

*The Federal Power Struggle (1865-1877)*

*Supreme Court Cases (1944-1950)*

*The Black Men Who Went to Congress in 1870*

Why Nonviolence? Introduction to Nonviolence Theory and Strategy (pdf)

**Assignments**

- Participation (Attendance, Student reading presentations, Weekly Blog @ [www.professorcrain.org](http://www.professorcrain.org) and Field Trips (you must attend at least one))
  - 150 -250 word original post with critical thinking questions for fellow students by Friday of each week (11:59 p.m.)
  - 50-100 word response by Sunday of each week (11:59 p.m.) 11 weeks @ 15 pts = **165**
- Analysis of a Political Perspective Interview Assignment **50**
- Community Based Research Project (4 - page analysis and summary with data) **60**
- Critical Reflective Essay on Race & Identity (7-10 pages) - **100**

**TOTAL: 375**

**Important Dates**

- ★ Spring Term begins **January 5 Ends March 22, 2015** (Exam Week March 16-22)
- ★ Student Reading Presentations are assigned at the beginning of the term
- ★ Analysis of a Political Perspective Interview Assignment & Presentation **February 2nd**
- ★ Begin Community Based Research Project by **February 9th, Due March 9th**
- ★ Critical Reflective Essay (**final paper**) **March 16th**

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**Students are required to attend at least one “field trip” for class on their own. See options below.**

[Black Liberation and Socialism Reading Group](#) - Monday, January 12th, 2015 6:30 -8:30 p.m.  
Oakland Peace Center, 111 Fairmount Avenue Oakland, CA

State of Black Oakland - Saturday, February 21, 2015 10-4 p.m. Location: TBA

[Free Movie: Fruitvale Station](#) - Sunday, January 25th, 2015 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Long Haul Infoshop - 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley - 2 blocks form Ashby BART - across from La Pena - 510 540 0751

[Anti-Police Terrorism Project](#) - Monthly Meetings Third Thursdays - East Side Arts Alliance,  
2277 International Blvd., Oakland, CA

*\* Failure to attend a community event during the term will take away 25 points from your final participation grade.*

Mo 4 - 6 p.m.	MH 3060	Crystallee Crain	01/05/2015 - 03/22/2015
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Reading Schedule	Dates (in class)
Introduction to the Course Review of Course Themes, Class Blog & Syllabus  Read: Handouts on class website (Buy books)	Monday, January 5th (Note: we are not using blackboard for this class)  We are using <a href="http://www.professorcrain.org">www.professorcrain.org</a>
The African Past (reader)  The Founding of Black America (reader)	Monday, January 12th
Chapter 1 & 2 Chronology: After the 13th amendment (reader) The New Politics of the Great Depression	Monday, January 19 <sup>th</sup> (No class – still complete the reading and blog for this week)
Chapter 3 & 4 (BL&S)  Chronology: Civil Rights Era and beyond; The Bush, Clinton & Bush Jr Era (reader)  Why Nonviolence? Introduction to Nonviolence Theory and Strategy (on class website)	Monday, January 26th
Begin Black Feminist Thought (Chapter 1)  Womanism/Black Feminism (reader)  The Black Men who Went to Congress (reader) Black Panther Party 10 point plan (class website)	Monday, February 2nd
Black Feminist Thought (Chapter 2)  Supreme Court Cases (1944-1950) (reader)  Black Feminist Thought (Chapter 3)	Monday, February 9th
Black Feminist Thought (Chapter 4)  Black Feminist Thought (Chapter 5)	Monday, February 16th

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Chapter 1: Crooked Room (SC) Ballot of the Bullet (class website) Political Parties, Election and the black vote Chapter 2: Myth (SC)	Monday, February 23rd
Chapter 3: Shame (SC) Black Organizations for Progress (reader) Guest Speaker: Local leaders	Monday, March 2nd Prepare for Final Paper
Chapter 4: Disaster & Chapter 5: Strength (SC)	Monday, March 9th
Turn in your paper at the start of class on during our final week of class.	Monday, March 16th