POSC 4931
Internship Course
Spring 2013 Theme: Political Inequality
MWF 8:00-8:50

Dr. Karen S. Hoffman
Office: WWP 484
Phone: 288-1573
Email: karen.hoffman@marquette.edu
Office Hours: M 11-2, T 9-12, W 12-2, F 11-1

Course Description:
Inequality is an important topic in contemporary politics. We often hear about economic equality, but this course will focus on political inequality. As interns, you are on the front lines of political access, receiving citizen complaints and concerns, and seeing up close how those concerns are handled by those in power. In this course, we will approach these questions from an intellectual perspective, and discuss some of the issues that drive the contemporary political conversation – education, voter ID, poverty, and race, class and culture. Our analysis will be driven by four questions:

1. Does democracy require anything other than political rules that apply equally to everyone?
2. Do our political rules apply equally to everyone?
3. How do the rules of policy and politics interact with the complicated lives of the polity’s citizens?
4. Who has access to real political power?

Readings:


Other readings will be available on D2L.

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic introduction/outline</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final draft</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation
You are expected to be in class every day prepared to discuss the readings. I reserve the right to give announced quizzes should some incentive be necessary.
Writing Assignment
You are required to write an essay on a topic of your choice, preferably one relating to your internship. The course readings and discussions may provide some ideas for this essay, but you are encouraged to take the assignment in the direction that you choose. The essay is intended to be a piece of writing that you can use as a draft of a statement for law school, graduate school, or a writing sample for further government employment, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, etc. There are severe penalties for late work. Assignments are marked down one letter grade for every day they are late.

Attendance
Attendance will be treated as a pass/fail portion of the grade. If a student misses 6 or fewer classes during the semester all is well. If a student misses more than 6 classes I may assign a WA (Withdrawal-Excessive Absences).

The Marquette University Undergraduate Attendance Policy (revised in June 2011) states the following:

“Students are responsible for attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered. Any absence, regardless of the reason, prevents students from getting the full benefit of the course and as such, no distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences, with the following exceptions:

1. Absences resulting from legal obligations (such as jury duty).
2. Absences resulting from university sanctioned activities and related travel.”

The Policy also states “the Marquette University Student Health Service does not provide documentation of illness, or of a visit to the Student Health Service. Likewise, college and other university offices (e.g., Office of the Dean, Counseling Center and Student Affairs) do not provide documentation of an absence on behalf of the student.”

In cases of excessive absences, the Marquette Undergraduate Attendance Policy will be followed. “For courses in which attendance is regularly taken, an instructor or college office may withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences and assign a grade of WA (Withdrawn-Excessive Absences)...Students who miss more than 6 classes in a 3 credit course that meets 50 minutes, 3 times per week, will be considered to have excessive absences and may be assigned a WA.”

While the attendance/participation portion of the class grade is very small (5%), the consequences of missing 7 or more classes are enormous – you will receive a WA. Those who are involved in university sanctioned activities should submit a schedule of anticipated absences within the first 2 weeks of class, and also come talk to the instructor well in advance of any other university sanctioned activity that will result in a missed assignment/quiz/exam.

Academic Dishonesty

Any incidents of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, dishonest conduct, or plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent allowed by Marquette University policy.
Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-92</td>
<td>A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-82</td>
<td>B/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-72</td>
<td>C/D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-68</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Intro to Political Inequality
Mon., Jan. 14 – Intro
Fri., Jan. 18 – Sidney Verba, “Thoughts about Political Equality: What is It? Why do we want it?” through “If so hard to measure, why do we care?”

Week 2 – Democracy
Mon., Jan. 21 – NO CLASS, MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
Wed., Jan. 23 – Verba – finish article

Week 3 – Democracy
Mon., Jan. 28 – Rogers Smith, “Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions of America”
Fri., Feb. 1 – no class

Week 4 – Rules of the Game
Mon., Feb. 4 – Robert A. Dahl, How Democratic is the American Constitution? Intro
Online content from Marquette library -
http://libus.csd.mu.edu/search~S1/?adahl%2C+robert/adahl+robert/1%2C4%2C45%2C2B/exact&FF=adahl+robert+alan+1915&1%2C37%2C
Wed., Feb. 6 – Dahl
Fri., Feb. 8 – Dahl

Week 5 - Class
Mon., Feb. 11 – Joseph Stiglitz, “America’s 1 Percent Problem,” The Price of Inequality
Fri., Feb. 15 – Stiglitz, “Justice for all? How Inequality is Eroding the Rule of Law,” The Price of Inequality

Week 6 – Work week – individual meetings
Week 7 – The Rules in Practice
Fri., Mar. 1 – *The Moral Underground* – Part 3
Outlines Due

Week 8 – Policy
Mon., Mar. 4 – “Everything you’ve ever wanted to know about Voter ID laws,” *ProPublica*
Fri. Mar. 8 – “Fixing the Milwaukee Public Schools”

MARCH 11 – 15 SPRING BREAK

Week – *Unquiet Earth* – schedule TBA
Mon., Mar. 18 –
Wed., Mar. 20 –
Fri., Mar. 22 –

Week 10 – *Unquiet Earth* – schedule TBA
Mon., Mar. 25 –
Wed., Mar. 27 –

MARCH 28-29 EASTER BREAK

Week 11 – Race
Mon., Apr. 1 – Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, intro
Wed., Apr. 3 – Alexander, Ch 5
Draft Essay Due
Fri., Apr. 5 – no class

Week 12 – Poverty
Mon., Apr. 8 – PBS *Frontline* “Poor Kids”
Wed., Apr. 10 – “Poor Kids”
Fri., Apr. 12 – NO CLASS – MIDWEST POLITICAL SCIENCE MEETING

Week 13 – Cycle of Poverty
Mon., Apr. 15 – no class
Wed., Apr. 17 – Jay MacLeod, from “Ain’t no Making it”
Fri., Apr. 19 – “Ain’t no Making it” continued

Week 14 – Individual Meetings

Week 15 – presentations - TBA

Final Essay due Tuesday, May 7 at 2 pm