PSC 401I - LECTURE 1

I. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH - WOOFTER

1. the disenfranchisement movement 1888-1908 (2001 book on the subject)

2. the political status of the Negro (voting and campaigns.): Negro office holders (64 towns, 21 settlements are government by almost entirely by negros; many urban cities have black city council members; and 7 states have black state legislative members.

3. How whites react to blacks: teaching of the constitution

what else should we study?

II. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND THE STUDY OF RACE: BOWLER AND SEGURA CH.1

Outside of the political mainstream

African-American Politics in its own department

Chicano Studies

Separation of groups into specialized study? good or bad?

minority politics and American politics are rapidly converging into the same thing

III. WHY POLITICAL SCIENTIST DON'T STUDY BLACK POLITICS WILSON III

Fewer black graduate students in PS than sociology and History numbers are declining

Less dissertations on black politics

Fewer blacks to take teaching positions
Vicious cycle - therefore less graduate students (black or white) are going to be attracted to the field

Fewer articles in PS Journals

Historians, Sociologists and economist have been studying slavery, the south, and labor discrimination. where is political science?

Less funding

Prior to the mid-1960s putting together a reading list on "black politics" was not easy.

civil rights movement, riots stimulated some research - but slowed down

Why?

other disciplines are concerned with:
1. seeing society from the bottom up rather than just from the top down
2. focus on the mobilization of new groups and their choice of new leaders
3. interested in personal and group behavior under constrained conditions
4. interested in non-formal institutions

Political Science
1. typically studies elites and decisionmakers
2. Likes formal institutions
3. Likes quantitative large scale surveys (likely not to have enough minorities in sample)
4. Decline in urban politics (taken up by sociology)

Even in PS strength (Voting studies) there is great neglect of black voters and opinion

WHY SHOULD WE STUDY RACE? SEGURA/BOWLER CH.1

28% of population consider themselves non-white or Hispanic.
non-hispanic whites no longer compose a majority of the population in CA and Hawaii

Growth in the minority population has mostly occurred in the last 20 years

*What of the accommodation and assimilation of these groups?*

How will the minority populations engage the in political process? vote, run for office, party, protest, violence.

How will the white majority react to a growing minority population? English only laws, citizenship, etc.

How will minority groups interact with one another? Competition, cooperation, hostility. zero-sum game?

issues of legitimacy???

**Social Reasons**
lowest socioeconomic strata
higher dropout rates
lower college
lower incomes
higher imprisonment
higher rates of HIV infection and chronic diseases
segregation
history of private/marketplace discrimination

**Political Reasons**
lower turnout?
lower representation
segregation/concentration
history of political discrimination

Demographic trends promise to make minority voters even more important. Shift toward south and west means that reapportionment of house seats will shift to states with large minority populations.
Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin lost seats, Pennsylvania lost 2.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO INCREASE POLITICAL SCIENCE'S ROLE IN ETHNIC STUDIES – WILSON III

1. close ethnic studies departments
2. hire more minorities
3. more research funding
4. diverse methodology
5. teach classes like this

MEANING OF MINORITY? WHAT IS A MINORITY GROUP: BOWLER/SEGURA

Changing/dynamic definition: color, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, behavior, immigration status?

interraying?

Deracialized society? browning of society or color blind?

Why focus on Latinos and Blacks?

How cohesive are these groups?
How different are they from each other or from whites

Party affiliation?
Voting for Bush
Voting for Gore
Opinion on school bonds
Opinion on gay marriage

which minorities vote more often? why?

can minorities be a voting block?
LA Mayor's race - Hahn vs. Villaraigosa. NY blacks & Latinos supported a minority candidate and then abandoned the party when he lost in the dem. primary. Ferrer and Green

**Political Context of Race**

You need to understand political behavior in a political context

- 1965 voting rights act
- SMPD
- nonpartisan elections
- off year elections
- Redistricting
- direct democracy

Some institutional setting can voice minority concerns or muffle them