I. What types of Political Representation are there?

a. substantive
b. descriptive
c. symbolic: descriptive representation void of any substantive effect

II. Is descriptive representation necessary?

a. John Adams: US Congress explicitly conceived as a "portrait of the people at large in miniature"
b. "Legislators can speak for voters of divergent social rank and lifestyles"
c. Hanna Pitkin dismisses its importance
d. Yet political representation is much more than policy representation
e. Representation is powerfully symbolic (Tate and Harsh)
f. Large body of political science that now suggests descriptive representation is important

III. What are the benefits of descriptive representation?

The two chapters in Segura and Bowler that were assigned discuss this very question

1. EFFECTS OF MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION by Buanducci, Donovan and Karp
2. A PORTRAIT OF THE PEOPLE: "DESCRIPTIVE REPRESENTATION AND ITS IMPACT ON U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS RATINGS" by Katherine Tate and Sarah Harsh

III. Buanducci, Donovan and Karp's Chapter

a. What is there research question?: "What effect does representation by a minority legislator have on the attitudes and behavior of minority voters?

Descriptive representation empowers minority groups, increases likelihood to vote. Why?

Changes how people perceive the costs and BENEFITS of voting. Voters feel that responsiveness is more likely to occur.

b. A discussion of Descriptive representation almost always brings up the confusing issue of redistricting

1. Thornburg v. Gingles 1986: challenge by black voters to five multi-member legislative districts in the redistricting plan of the North Carolina General Assembly. Gingles confirmed that under amended section 2 vote dilution could be proven by an “effects” test without regard to intent.

2. Shaw v. Reno 1993: race should not be the major determinant in redrawing district lines
c. *Trade offs of different representation?*: Many scholars have warned about the trade offs between Descriptive v. Substantive representation. Higher concentrations of blacks in majority minority districts could strengthen GOP prospects in neighboring districts, and thus produce a congress with more minorities but fewer total members that support policies that many minorities want.

In addition, safe majority-minority districts might even suppress minority turnout. why? less competitive.

d. *What data do they use?* Most studies focus on city level data. This study is different. Data ANES 1990-1998 and Data on who is the respondent's member in the House of Representatives

e. *Results?*: African American representation in congress does not seem to lower cynicism, but it does seem to increase feelings of empowerment and likelihood of voting. But these effects decrease as education increases, why?

Educated people don't need race or gender as a low cost informational cue
IV. A Portrait of the People: "Descriptive Representation and its impact on U.S. House Members Ratings" by Katherine Tate and Sarah Harsh

a. Descriptive representation is not just symbolic (position taking; credit claiming and advertising)

Descriptive representation is important because groups must be free to define their interests and defend them publicly

b. Act Differently: Black members of congress act differently than white members

c. Research question: Does the public value descriptive representation? Does a match in race between legislator and constituent increase a constituent's rating of the legislator? (also looks at gender and party)

d. More satisfied: Both whites and minorities seem to be more satisfied when represented by someone of their "own kind"

e. Low information Cue: Like Buanducci, Donovan and Karp, Tate and Harsh suggest that race is useful as a low information cue. Trying to determine a candidate's competency or whether the candidate will represent a voter's preferences is difficult. Using cues: party, race, gender is much easier
f. Data: 130 legislators/1998 ANES data

g. Findings: race and party match matters; gender, committee chair, and seniority don't matter

V. Third Article: Asian Pacific Americans and the New Minority Politics by Aoki and Nakanishi

a. Asian American not well represented in politics – why?

Model minority – whites would seem to support such candidates

Limited participation

b. Why the limited political participation?

60% of Asian Americans are foreign born, compared to 38% Latino (1998 data)

fragmented by ethnicity and language: Hawaiian Americans wanted separate category or categorized in native American group

b. Things are Changing: but increasing turnout and representation: 2200 elected or appointed officials in 33 states and federal level