New York University, College of Arts and Science

Fall 2023 Covering Race and Gender in the 2024 Election JOUR-UA XXX

Instructor: Averi Harper Email: anh269@nyu.edu Phone: (516)902-1167

Class Hours: Tuesdays 6:30pm-9:00pm in Room XXX 20 Cooper Square New York, NY 10003

Office Hours: Thursdays 7p-8pm via Zoom, via text 12pm-1pm Fridays and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to explore the impacts of race and gender in the coverage of campaigns past and present. We will examine how the race and/or gender identity of candidates plays a role in the coverage of and outcomes of races like the 2024 presidential, state-wide and down-ballot races. We will also discuss how issues related to race and gender drive coverage, voter turnout and voter behavior.

COURSE GOALS

In this class, students will learn the skills to produce political reporting and analysis. Students will leave the course with a greater understanding how race and politics often intersect in the context of campaign coverage. Students will learn about how both racial and gender identity have historically played important roles in the outcomes of storied political campaigns. Students will strengthen their political prowess and learn to read beyond the headlines to analyze campaigns and candidates. There will be lectures, “best practice” analysis, class discussions, guest visits, one-on-one feedback from the instructor and critiques of students’ work. In addition to class attendance and participation, students will need to budget time outside of class to report, produce and edit their work.

COURSE STRUCTURE

In class, there will be lectures, class discussions and guest visits (virtually and in-person). As a means workshopping assignments there will be both peer review critiques and one-on-one feedback from the instructor. We will also discuss ethical dilemmas and the political media landscape. In addition to class attendance and participation, students will need to budget time outside of class to report, produce and edit their work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will:

● Demonstrate awareness of journalism’s core ethical values

● Demonstrate critical thinking, independence, and creativity appropriate to the role of

journalism in a democratic society

● Write clear, accurate and engaging prose in an audience-appropriate manner

● Interview subjects, conduct research, and evaluate information

● Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diverse perspectives

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Welcome to my class! We’re going to be spending a lot of time together and we’re all coming

together to learn. Throughout this course, we’ll be discussing sensitive topics and giving each other constructive feedback on assignments. Our classroom is a safe space and we’ll all be respectful of each other’s viewpoints and work. I want to you to be unafraid to speak up and to try different things. While you are in school, you have editorial freedom unlike many working journalists. Take advantage of that freedom! I’ll tell you how things are typically done, but in my class you have room to be creative. Even if things don’t work out perfectly, you will (and our class will) learn from the experiment. I’ll be nudging you out of your comfort zone throughout the course, in the spirit of learning.

Here are my only rules:

a) Late assignments will not be accepted, reviewed, nor critiqued. I will not spend time

searching for due assignments. As a working journalist, deadlines are hard—if I turn in an

assignment even one minute late, it’s too late. **If you need an extension of a deadline, you**

**MUST email or text at least 48 hours before deadline,** tell me why you might miss the deadline

and present a solution. Please note that the final project pitch, rough draft and final draft are HARD deadlines. Those deadlines are non-negotiable and you will have to turn in whatever you have at that moment.

b) Tardiness is not acceptable. It is disruptive to the class and highly offensive to me and your

classmates. If you are late to more than one class, your grade will be affected.

c) Class attendance is mandatory and you cannot miss class to work on assignments for

this or for another class. If you are ill and can’t make it to class, please notify me the day of

your absence before class begins. If you miss more than 3 classes, you will fail this class. If you

miss a class, I unfortunately won’t be able to make that class up for you in private sessions or

office hours. Please reach out to your classmates for notes and check out links to any

presentations given and videos watched. In addition to class attendance and participation,

students will need to budget time outside of class to report, produce and edit their work.

d) Please refrain from using your phones or using your laptops for anything other than classwork during class time. It is distracting to you and people around you. Even I, an avid multi-tasker, can admit I learn better when I’m focused on one thing at a time. We take at least one break per class during which you are of course free to check your emails, make phone calls etc. If you place your cell phone on silence in the front of the room, I will give you three points extra credit if you leave it there until the end of the class - you can of course take it out when we take a break or do an in-class exercise.

e) Since you will have multiple shots at getting a good grade in the class, please note, there are

no other extra credit opportunities in this class.

f) Since we are doing a lot of exercises in class, I cannot guarantee we’ll take our breaks at a

certain times. Therefore, please do not schedule anything - even phone calls - during our

class time.

g) Free Pass: Because we are all human, everyone gets one free pass. Be it being late to

class, missing a deadline etc. After you used your free pass though, your next tardiness (being

late for class, missing a deadline etc.) will negatively affect your grade.

ETHICS

The Institute has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism, fabrication or any other type of

misrepresentation; all are grounds for failing the course. Photos and videos must be yours. Be

sure to read the Handbook for Students: http://journalism.nyu.edu/about-us/resources/ethics

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities will be accommodated according to her or

his needs. Please discuss any disabilities with the professor during the first week of class. A

letter explaining any disability can be obtained at the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for

Students with Disabilities (CDS), located at 726 Broadway; Phone: 212-998-4980.

COMMUNICATION

Please be in touch via, email or text to me throughout the class. When you send in your

pieces or pitches, it might be a good me to let me know if you haven’t understood something in

class or if you have a complaint about the class. This is your chance to let me know. I will build

in your feedback in the following sessions or contact you privately. Please also let me know if

you are struggling with a particular story. It is way better to notify me early if you are struggling

with an assignment rather than letting me know at the last minute, when there is very little time to help you. By its nature, journalism is fluid and subject to fast paced changes. I will highlight changes in this document. You can find class materials in this shared Google Drive folder.

GRADING

Final grades will be based on class participation and completion of your assignments. You will also be graded in terms of effort, professionalism, merit of your work, level of improvement over the course of the semester, handling of feedback and contributions to the class, which includes attendance and timeliness. This class functions as a team and to work effectively everyone must come to class prepared, hand in assignments on time and fully participate.

GRADING POLICY

A (1,000-940 points) A- (939-900 points)

Student work is exceptional and meets deadline and publication criteria. Class participation is

outstanding during discussions and critiques. Student not only understands the material at a

high level but also assists fellow classmates in need.

B+ (899-870 points) B (869-840 points) B- (839-800 points)

Student has successfully completed all class projects. Student work is near to industry

standards for publication, though requires more edits. Student did not contribute to all

discussions and critiques either because of lack of participation in-class or unexcused

absences.

C+ (799-770 points) C (769-740 points) C- (739-700 points)

Student has only a satisfactory completion of all class projects. Student work does not meet

industry standards and requires significant edits. Student missed multiple in-class discussions

and critiques either because of lack of participation in-class or unexcused absences. Student

did not adequately respond to the instructor’s feedback to make their work publishable.

F (699 points and below) Student did not complete all class projects. Student missed multiple

in-class discussions and critiques either because of lack of participation in-class or unexcused

absences. Student did not adequately respond to the instructor’s feedback to make their work

publishable. Student may have also been found guilty of an ethical breach such as libel or

plagiarism.

GRADING COMPONENTS

* Class Participation (225 points)
* Assignment: Political News Story (125 points)
* Assignment: Political Analysis Piece (125 points)
* Assignment: Final Project Pitch (100 points)
* Assignment: Final Project Rough Draft or Cut (150 points)
* Assignment: Final Project Final Draft or Cut (275 points)

ASSIGNMENTS

The deadline for all assignments is Tuesday at 6:30 pm. No exceptions.

Political News Story

Write a 500-word political news piece focused on a specific issue, political race or candidate at the intersection of race/gender and politics. You must interview and quote at least three relevant subjects in your story.

Political Analysis

Write a 500-word political analysis piece focused on a specific issue, political race or candidate at the intersection of race/gender and politics. You must utilize a poll or some other data point to support your premise.

Final Project Pitch

In preparation for your final project, turn in a few paragraphs explaining your idea for your 1000-word written piece or 3-minute video piece (if you choose and already possess shooting/editing skills) analyzing a specific candidate or race. Include the angle for your story, information (stats, polls, studies) that back up premise and list potential interview subjects.

Final Project Rough Draft/Cut

Turn in a draft of your 1000-word written piece or 3-minute video piece analyzing a specific candidate or race. Must have all of the reporting/interviews done prior to turning in.

Final Project

Turn in final version of your 1000-word written piece or 3-minute video piece analyzing a specific candidate or race.

Week-by-Week Schedule

Week 1, September 5, 2023

* Course Overview
* What makes a strong political news story?
* Identifying Political Trends
* What happens when you can’t interview your story subject?
* Discussion: First GOP Presidential Primary Debate

Before next class:

New York Times Magazine |The Impact of Jesse Jackson

Jackson Denounces Farrakhan

1988: Jackson mounts a serious challenge, but a loss in one state ends the quest

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Week 2, September 12, 2023

* Review: News values and print story structure
* The difference between political reporting, commentary and analysis
* Screening: Excerpt from Frontline; Running With Jessie. https://youtu.be/iuAPbCtS7Dc
* Discussion: Jesse Jackson 1984 & 1988
* In-Class Writing Exercise

Before next class:

The One About Iowa, Black Voters and Barack Obama

Barack Obama's Speech on Race

Hillaryland at War

Come to next class with ideas about for your political news story

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Week 3, September 19, 2023

* Utilizing polls
* Cutting through campaign spin
* Political News story idea workshop
* Special Guest
* Discussion: Barack Obama & Hillary Clinton 2008

Before next class:

Donald Trump’s Gender-Based Attacks on Hillary Clinton Have Calculated Risk

Why So Many Women Abandoned Hillary Clinton

Why Tim Kaine can oppose abortion and still run with Hillary Clinton

**--Political News Story Due next class--**

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Week 4, September 26, 2023

**--Political News Story Due via email by 6:30p--**

* Assignment Peer Review
* Covering “culture wars”
* How women vote
* Screening: Excerpt from Frontline The Choice 2016
* Discussion: Hillary Clinton 2016

Before next class:

Sarah Palin RNC Nomination Speech

 Sarah Who? Why John McCain Picked VP Palin

Clinton aides: Palin treatment sexist

Obama Says McCain-Palin Proposals Are Like Putting "Lipstick on a Pig"

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Week 5, October 3, 2023

* What makes strong political analysis/or op-ed?
* Screening: Katie Couric Interviews Sarah Palin
* Discussion: Sarah Palin 2008

Before next class:

NBC News: Change or keep your name? For 'Kamala,' 'Nikki' and others, a story of identity, culture and power

Kamala Harris grew up in a mostly white world. Then she went to a black university in a black city

Kamala Harris’s Ambition Trap

Bring ideas for your political analysis piece to the next class.

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**Week 6, October 10, 2023 NO CLASS!!!**

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Week 7, October 17, 2023

* Political analysis idea workshop
* Breaking down the significance of the Black vote
* Discussion: Kamala Harris 2020

Before next class:

All Her Life, Nikki Haley Was the Different One

Transcript: Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina on Removing the Confederate Flag

Nikki Haley walks fine line on race, gender in appeal to GOP base

**--Political Analysis due next class--**

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Week 8, October 24, 2023

**--Political Analysis Due via email by 6:30p—**

* Political News Story Peer Review
* Special Guest
* Discussion: Nikki Haley 2010 (Gubernatorial) & 2024

Before next class:

Leave the US, Trump tells liberal congresswomen of color

‘Squad’ jumped from pop culture to become the most politically polarizing word of the year

Analysis: Progressive lawmakers stand firm against Trump’s repeated racist attacks

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Week 9, October 31, 2023

* Screening: CBS: Gayle King full interview with “The Squad”
* Discussion: The Squad 2018

Before Next Class:

Rep. Chisholm Declares That She May Run for President in 1972

Mrs. Chisholm says support is growing

Single candidate by blacks hinted

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Week 10, November 7, 2023

**--Final Project Pitch due via email at 6:30p--**

* Final Project Pitch workshop
* Screening: Rep. Shirley Chisholm Presidential Campaign Announcement
* Discussion: Shirley Chisolm 1972

Before next class:

What Herman Cain meant

Herman Cain faces sexual harassment allegations from fourth woman

Herman Cain and the politics of race

Meet The Press: Ben Carson Interview

Ben Carson: Obama was ‘raised white’

Many African-Americans see two sides to Ben Carson

Week 11, November 14, 2023

* In Class Writing Exercise
* Discussion: Herman Cain 2012/Ben Carson 2016

Before next class:

Latino Voters, Trump and the Republican Party

Op-Ed: Marco Rubio, meet ‘Boxcar Ben’ Fernandez, America’s first Latino presidential candidate

Republicans are winning more Latino votes. But rising turnout still benefits Dems.

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Week 12, November 21, 2023

* Final Project Workshop
* Discussion: Contours of the Latino vote
* Discussion: Ben Fernandez 1980

**--Final Project Rough Draft/Cut due next class--**

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Week 13, November 28, 2023

**--Final Project Rough Draft/Cut should be submitted via email by 6:30pm ET--**

* Peer Review of Student Rough Draft/Cuts

Before next class:

Is Andrew Yang 'reclaiming' stereotypes with Asian jokes? Experts say not so much.

Andrew Yang: We Asian Americans are not the virus, but we can be part of the cure

Andrew Yang faces backlash from the Asian American community over op-ed

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Week 14, December 5, 2023

* Instructor Check ins on Rough Drafts/Cuts
* Discussion: Growing impact of AAPI vote
* Discussion: Andrew Yang 2020

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Week 15, December 12, 2023

**--FINAL should be submitted via email by 6:30pm ET--**

* Class evaluations
* Final Project Peer Review