Instructor: Patrizia Longo
Course: Politics 110: "Minority Politics"
Enrollment: 24
Level of Participation: 100%

Description of Course: Minority groups have become the driving force in American elections and policy making today. Thus, as citizens and students of politics, it is important to have a thorough understanding of minority groups, the role they play in the American political system, and the consequences of minority group power. This course is designed to provide you with both a theoretical understanding and empirical grounding in the politics of racial and ethnic minority groups in America.

Student Research Groups: Students will be clustered in 3 groups---2 groups of 8 working with the Women of Color Resource Center and one group of 5-8 working with International Institute of the East Bay’s Immigration Legal Services.

The Women of Color Resource Center (WCRC)

Organizational Background
Mission
Founded in 1990, the Women of Color Resource Center (WCRC) is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area and promotes the political, economic, social and cultural well being of women and girls of color in the United States. Informed by a social justice perspective that takes into account the status of women internationally, WCRC is committed to organizing and educating women of color across lines of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, class, sexual orientation, physical ability and age.

Site Orientation: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3PM (1611 Telegraph Ave. #303, Oakland, CA 94612)

Student Group 1 (WCRC)
Student Group 1 will research the impact of TEMPO (Technological Empowerment and Media Project of Oakland). Use the following questions as a guide in your research.

1) What motivated women to participate in TEMPO?
2) How did the program meet their expectations? How did the program fall short of their expectations? How did the program exceed their expectations?
3) How did being in the program impact participants’ views of themselves?
4) How did being in the program impact participants’ views of women of color in the media?

Methodology for Student Group 1:
A. Literature Review and online research:
   Students will conduct a literature review and online research of the following topics:
   1) The WCRC’s mission and services
   2) TEMPO---history, purpose, participants, archived broadcasts (available on the organization’s website)
   3) Bay Area media coverage of women of color

B. Interviews
   Under the direction of the Women of Color Resource Center, former TEMPO participants will be identified for interviews. Students will develop interview questions and will conduct interviews with program participants to gather information.

Student Group 2 (WCRC)
Student Group 2 will research the impact of the Third World Women’s Alliance on its former members/participants. Use the following questions as a guide in your research.

1) What is the history of the organization?
2) What were the organization's primary goals?
3) What impact did this organization have on its members/participants while it still existed?
4) How have the former members of this organization continued to carry out the spirit and mission of the organization in their own lives?

Methodology for Student Group 2:
B. Literature Review and WCRC archival research:
Students will conduct a literature review and archival research of the following topics:
1) History and purpose/mission of the Third World Women’s Alliance
2) How the organization grew out of and contributed to the social movements of the 1960’s-1980’s
3) How this history is reflected in the work of the WCRC?

B. Interviews
Under the direction of the Women of Color Resource Center, former members of the Third World Women’s Alliance will be identified for interviews. Students will develop interview questions and will conduct interviews with former members of the organization to gather further information.

C. Nonprofit Resources
The Women of Color Resource Center will share pertinent information to support the research process, such as archival data, contact information for former program/organization members, etc.

International Institute of the East Bay’s Immigration Legal Services

Organizational Background

Mission
The mission of the International Institute of the East Bay is to act as a resource for immigrants and refugees, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency; and to promote mutual appreciation and understanding within the community.

Institute’s Programs and Services
In the tradition of the settlement houses at the turn of the century, the International Institute of the East Bay helps immigrants and refugees adjust to life in a new country. Through its legal and social services, the Institute helps newcomers with immigration, English language acquisition,
and employment needs, and meets a critical need for information on their rights and opportunities as newcomers to the United States.

Immigration Legal Services
The Institute helps families separated by the migration experience to reunify through family visa petitions, helps legal residents to gain citizenship and undocumented battered immigrant women and children to gain legal status, helps with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), with Nicaraguan And Central American Relief Act (NACARA) applications, and provides advice and counsel on immigration legal matters.

**Student Group 3 (Immigration Legal Services)**
Student Group 3 will research the primary concerns of recently naturalized citizens, specifically what issues they believe should prove the focus of an immigrant rights organization. Use the following questions as a guide in your research.

1) What are the primary concerns of recently naturalized citizens?
2) What issues do recently naturalized citizens believe an immigrant rights organization should focus on? How can an immigrant rights organization best help these individuals?
3) How can an immigrant rights organizations best contact and reach out to recently naturalized citizens?

**Methodology for Student Group 3:**

**C. Literature Review and online research:**
Students will conduct a literature review and online research of the following topics:
1) New citizen political involvement/civic engagement (voting, political organizing, etc.)
2) Organizations that are successfully promoting new citizen political involvement
   (Note: Good place to start is with the National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials/NALEO)

**B. Phone Interviews/Voter Registration**
Under the direction of Immigration Legal Services, students will have conversations with some of the most empowered recent clients and, based on their responses, create a script for use with recently naturalized citizens.
Students will call recently naturalized citizens, determine when they became naturalized, fill out their voter registration forms over the phone for them, and ask them questions about what issues they believe should prove the focus of an immigrant rights organization.

**C. Nonprofit Resources**

Immigration Legal Services will share pertinent information to support the research process, such as data, contact information for clients, etc.

**Objective:** To teach the in the fall semester of 2007 with the CBR component and the two organizations specified above as our community partners.

**Deadline:** Course to be taught in spring 2007.

**Milestones/Target Dates:** Faculty member will identify potential community partner (May 2007); establish needs and goals with community partner and develop the parameters of the CBR component (June 2007); integrate the description of the CBR in the course syllabus (August 2007); course complete (August 2007).