Chicana and Chicano Studies 150  
Summer 2018

The History and Politics of Affirmative Action

Professor Robert Chao Romero  
University of California, Los Angeles

Hours: TR, 12:00-2:30 p.m.  
Classroom: Bunche 3153  
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Office Hours: TR, 11-12  
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Course Description: This course examines the controversial history and politics of affirmative action. In this course, students shall analyze the 46-year historical development of affirmative action through the lens of landmark United States Supreme Court opinions and important state and federal legislation. This course shall also examine recent trends in California state affirmative action policy, specifically analyzing Proposition 209 and *Coalition for Economic Equity v. Wilson (1997)*. Finally, this course shall explore the diverse public discourse on affirmative action, in particular, examining differing Latino, Asian, African American, and feminist perspectives on the topic.

Course Readings: Course readings will be court case opinions and legal statutes. All readings are available for free online.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation as “Expert” Discussant (20%). Each student will be assigned to be an “expert” for one reading. Students must submit a 2-page double spaced summary of the reading in order to receive credit.

2. Quiz (30%) 30% of the course grade will be based upon 1 quiz which will be administered during week 4.

3. Final Exam (50%). 50% of the course grade is based upon a take-home final exam which will be distributed on Thursday, September 13. Submit exam via Turn-it-In by Tuesday, September 18 at midnight.
Course Syllabus:

Week One: August 7, 9

The Birth of Affirmative Action, Bakke, and “Reverse Discrimination”:

Readings:

Affirmative Action Timeline
http://www.infoplease.com/spot/affirmativetimeline1.html

Executive Order 10925
http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/history/35th/thelaw/ eo-10925.html

*Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)*

*Video*—“Preferential Treatment” (affirmative action in the 1970’s)

Week Two: August 14, 16

Police and Fire Departments

Readings:

United States v. Paradise
480 US 149 (1987)
https://www.oyez.org/cases/1986/85-999

129 S. Ct. 2658
https://www.oyez.org/cases/2008/07-1428

Week Three: August 21, 23

The Construction Industry and Gender

Readings:

*City of Richmond v. Croson* (1989)
488 U.S. 469
https://www.oyez.org/cases/1988/87-998

515 U.S. 200

https://www.oyez.org/cases/1994/93-1841

Week Four:  August 28, 30

Teachers

476 U.S. 267

https://www.oyez.org/cases/1985/84-1340

**Quiz One** will take place in class on *Tuesday, August 28.*

Week Five:  September 11, 13

Affirmative Action in University Admissions

Readings:

*Proposition 209* (1997)

http://vigarchive.sos.ca.gov/1996/general/pamphlet/209text.htm

9th circ. 209 case 122 F.3d 692


593 U.S. 306

https://www.oyez.org/cases/2002/02-241

Week Six: September 11, 13

University Admissions (continued)

Readings:

539 U.S. 244
[https://www.oyez.org/cases/2002/02-516](https://www.oyez.org/cases/2002/02-516)

*Fisher v. Texas* (2016)
579 US _ (2016)
[https://www.oyez.org/cases/2012/11-345](https://www.oyez.org/cases/2012/11-345)

Trump administration rescinds Obama era affirmative action guidance:

Final exam prompt to be distributed September 13.