

POSC 108

Final Questions

Date: 3/16: 7-10pm

The final will consist of five of these questions randomly selected. Please answer each question as best you can, using academic citations where sensible.

1. By 2050 the United States will be a majority-minority country, and, especially in California, we are already seeing these changes culturally and politically. Given this, describe why Donald Trump's campaign has been so successful on the Republican side. Be sure to cite academic literature both from inside and outside of the class.
2. In a recent Democratic debate, the two candidates were asked: "What racial blind spots do you have?" In response, Sanders responded: "When you are white, you don't know what it's like to be living in a ghetto, you don't know what it's like to be poor, you don't know what it's like to be hassled when you are walking down a street or dragged out of a car." Given what you have learned in this class, explain what Sanders misses and then make a case why he is not performing well with black voters at the polls.
3. Based on social dominance theory, and what we have discussed in class more generally, what do you think can be done to "correct" the policing problem we have in the United States – a problem that does not seem to exist in such a way in other similarly situated countries?
4. Coates often talks about "The Dream." What does he mean by this. Who is indicted in the Dream and is the oppression of blacks – and to a degree – other minority groups mandatory to uphold this dream. Why?
5. How does Coates' book speak to -- in general -- group consciousness, linked fate, and the black utility heuristic?
6. Coates talks a lot about fear. Describe the ways in which he, and African American males in general, experience fear in their lives. Incorporate any relevant research and prejudice and discrimination.
7. In the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, blacks were strong supporters of Barack Obama whereas Latinos tended to favor Hillary Clinton. Given that these two groups often share similar SES and group status, are quite strongly Democratic, and also tend to agree on the role and size of government, why did we see such polarization?