

Princeton University

WWS 594q

Policy Analysis: Race, Class, and College Admissions

Spring 2005 (Session I)

Tuesday, 7-10pm
290 Wallace Hall (tentatively)

Professor Thomas J. Espenshade
Office of Population Research
Wallace Hall, Rm. 249
Email: tje@princeton.edu

Assistant: Kristen Turner, 258-5622
Wallace Hall, Rm. 207
Email: kristent@princeton.edu

Office Hours: after class on Tuesday; Wednesday 4:00-5:30pm; or by appointment (arrange through Kristen Turner).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will examine factors influencing who applies to and the probability of being accepted at academically selective colleges and universities. Topics include race-conscious versus class-based affirmative action, the role of elite universities in promoting social mobility, recent U.S. Supreme Court cases, and current public policy controversies.

I. Grading Policy. The course grade will consist of three components:

- Class Participation (40%)
- Leading Class Discussion (25%)
- Final term paper (35%)—due no later than Friday, March 11, 2005 at 5pm. Email your paper as a Word attachment to Kristen Turner, kristent@princeton.edu. This paper may be on any topic of your choosing related to the content of the course, double-spaced, 5-10 pages in length. Two students may collaborate on their final paper if they wish. In this case, the paper should be 10-20 pages long. Both students will receive the same grade for this component of the course.

There is no final examination.

II. Book Purchases: You will not be required to purchase any books. Readings will be posted electronically on Blackboard at least one full week in advance.

III. Recommended Readings. These supplement the reading list:

Ogbu, John U. 2003. *Black American Students in an Affluent Suburb: A Study of Academic Disengagement*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers.

Thernstrom, Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom. 2003. *No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Lareau, Annette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

IV. Weekly Topical Outline

1. Applying to College
2. College Admissions: Principles of Selection
3. College Admissions: Empirical Studies
4. Supreme Court cases
5. Role of Social Class
6. Role of Social Class (continued)

V. Reading List

Week no. 1, February 1: (Applying to College)

Hossler, Don, Jack Schmit, and Nick Vesper. 1999. *Going to College: How Social, Economic, and Educational Factors Influence the Decisions Students Make*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 1-10, 127-136.

McDonough, Patricia M. 1997. *Choosing Colleges: How Social Class and Schools Structure Opportunity*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, pp. 89-155.

Lombardi, Kate Stone. 2004. "Tutoring for the Already Brainy," *The New York Times*, May 23.

Toor, Rachel. 2001. "Early Decision and the Politics of Class," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, The Chronicle Review, January 26, p. B16.

Week no. 2, February 8: (College Admissions: Principles of Selection)

Klitgaard, Robert E. 1985. *Choosing Elites*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., pp. 3-16, 51-84, 154-177.

Bowen, William G. and Derek Bok. 1998. *The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 15-26.

Smelser, Neil J. 1999. "Problematics of Affirmative Action: A View from California," in Eugene Y. Lowe, Jr., ed. *Promise and Dilemma: Perspectives on Racial Diversity and Higher Education*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 169-180.

Paul, Bill. 1995. "Getting In: An Inside Look at Admissions and Its Dean, Fred Hargadon," *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, November 22, pp. 11-19.

Karabel, Jerome. 2004. "The Legacy of Legacies," *The New York Times*, September 13, p. A23.

Week no. 3, February 15: (College Admissions: Empirical Studies)

Kane, Thomas J. 1998. "Racial and Ethnic Preferences in College Admissions," in Christopher Jencks and Meredith Phillips, eds., *The Black-White Test Score Gap*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 431-441.

Bowen, William G. and Derek Bok. 1998. *The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 26-31.

Espenshade, Thomas J., Chang Y. Chung, and Joan L. Walling. 2004. "Admission Preferences for Minority Students, Athletes, and Legacies at Elite Universities," forthcoming in *Social Science Quarterly*.

Espenshade, Thomas J., Lauren E. Hale, and Chang Y. Chung. 2004. "High School Academic Environment, Class Rank, and Elite College Admission," August, unpublished manuscript (pp. 1-61, and Tables 1-7).

Bunzel, John H. 1996. "Race and College Admissions," *Public Interest*, Winter, 122, pp. 49-58.

Week no. 4, February 22: (Supreme Court cases)

“Equal Protection Clause,” *Constitution of the United States*, Article XIV, Section 1.

Palmer, Scott R. 2001. “Diversity and Affirmative Action: Evolving Principles and Continuing Legal Battles,” in Gary Orfield, ed., *Diversity Challenged: Evidence on the Impact of Affirmative Action*. The Civil Rights Project, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Publishing Group, pp. 81-98.

Gratz v. Bollinger (decided June 23, 2003). 123 S.Ct. 2411, 2003 (concentrate on the majority opinion; skim remaining concurring and dissenting opinions)

Grutter v. Bollinger (decided June 23, 2003). 123 S.Ct. 2325, 2003 (concentrate on the majority opinion by Sandra Day O’Connor and on Clarence Thomas’s dissenting opinion; skim remaining concurring and dissenting opinions)

Killenbeck, Mark R. 2004. “Affirmative Action and Diversity: The Beginning of the End? Or the End of the Beginning?” Policy Information Perspective, March, Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

Week no. 5, March 1: (Role of Social Class)

Carnevale, Anthony P. and Stephen J. Rose. 2004. “Socioeconomic Status, Race/Ethnicity, and Selective College Admissions,” in Richard D. Kahlenberg, ed., *America’s Untapped Resource: Low-Income Students in Higher Education*. New York: The Century Foundation Press, pp. 101-156.

Bowen, William G. 2004. “The Quest for Equity: ‘Class’ (Socio-Economic Status) in American Higher Education,” Lecture II, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series, University of Virginia, April 7.

Persell, Caroline Hodges and Peter W. Cookson, Jr. 1985. “Chartering and Bartering: Elite Education and Social Reproduction,” *Social Problems*, December, 33(2), pp. 114-129.

Espenshade, Thomas J., Lauren E. Hale, and Chang Y. Chung. 2004. “High School Academic Environment, Class Rank, and Elite College Admission,” August, unpublished manuscript (pp. 61-68 and Table 8).

Leonhardt, David. 2004. “As Wealthy Fill Top Colleges, New Efforts to Level the Playing Field,” *The New York Times*, April 22.

Week no. 6, March 8: (Role of Social Class, continued)

Lareau, Annette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 1-15, 28-37, 105-107, 161-164.

Farkas, George. 2004. "The Black-White Test Score Gap," *Contexts*, Spring, 3(2), pp. 12-19.

Tienda, Marta and Sunny Niu. 2004. "Texas' 10-Percent Plan: the Truth Behind the Numbers," *The Chronicle Review, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 23, 50(20), p. B10.

Cancian, Maria. 1998. "Race-Based Versus Class-Based Affirmative Action in College Admissions," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 17(1): 94-105.

Bowen, William G. and Derek Bok. 1998. *The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 46-52.

Kane, Thomas J. 1998. "Racial and Ethnic Preferences in College Admissions." Christopher Jencks and Meredith Phillips, eds., *The Black-White Test Score Gap*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 448-451.