



**THE INSTITUTE FOR
URBAN POLICY RESEARCH**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**INTRODUCTION TO RACE, ETHNICITY,
AND GENDER IN PUBLIC POLICY**

P A 387K Advanced Topics in Public Policy / Unique Number 60209

Instructors: Shetal Vohra-Gupta, PhD, MSW
Semester: Spring 2016
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Class Time: Tuesday 9:30 to 12:30pm

I. Course Description

This course explores the overt and covert representations of race, ethnicity, and gender issues in public policy. The class acquaints students with the process of policy development and the multiple factors that influence its content, implementation, and consequences. In addition, the course will focus on the history and theoretical perspectives on race, ethnicity, and gender as it relates to current policies.

II. Course Objectives

At the completion of the course, each student must be able to demonstrate their ability to:

1. Identify and describe current and historical public policies by race, ethnicity, and gender;
2. Critically evaluate the process through which race, ethnicity, and gender issues become integral parts of public policy development at state, federal, or local levels;
3. Utilize alternative theoretical frameworks as the basis for critically analyzing the development, content, and outcomes of public policy;
4. Apply various methods [qualitative and quantitative] for evaluating the different effects of public policies on different populations, distinguished by race, ethnicity, and gender;
5. Critically evaluate select policies issues in such areas as health, mental health, criminal justice, voting, education, income, and employment;
6. Develop a plan for participating in and influencing public policy to promote social and economic justice.

Dr. Vohra-Gupta is the Associate Director for the Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis (IURPA). She currently leads a team of 8, including postdoctoral fellows, researchers, lawyers, and graduate and undergraduate students. She conducts research in the intersection of race, gender, policy, and the social and cultural determinants of health. Dr. Vohra-Gupta has written op-eds featured in many Texas news outlets on the topics of pay equity and minimum wage. Dr. Vohra-Gupta has also worked at the United Nations in New York City. She is a licensed clinical social worker and holds a PhD in social work. She just completed a grant examining needs of low-income communities of color. Dr. Vohra-Gupta has designed this course and has taught it for 4 consecutive years.