This paper is an example of a much more traditional empirical article than the Putnam piece. I have purposefully cut much of it down, so that you could focus on a shorter piece of the article, but read it much more carefully than you might otherwise. As you read, pay attention to how she moves from theory to hypotheses to data to results and interpretation. A couple of cautionary notes:

1. In Table 2 and Table 3, Gay uses Logit regression or Ordered Probit for much of her analyses. You have not learned these yet (but you will soon). The column marked “Favorable Rating” in Table 2 is an OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) Regression, which is the kind of regression we have learned in class. You can use all the tools we learned in class to derive your own interpretation of those results—then see how Gay discusses them. In examining the logit results, the one thing to keep in mind is that you can interpret statistical significance and the sign of the coefficient the same as OLS, but not the magnitude of the coefficient.

2. In the conclusion, Gay discusses a series of findings that you did not necessarily read. Since I excerpted large parts of the article, you only read the empirical analyses that pertain to some of those conclusions.

There are two main goals (and a few sub-goals) in reading this paper:

1. **Learn how to interpret and make inferences from regression:** Gay does a nice job of carefully interpreting the results of her data analysis. Learning to make inference, as I have emphasized, is more than just knowing how to read statistical significance on a table. Gay does a nice job of discussing the actual empirical results in detail, but moving from the statistical interpretation to the substantive interpretation. In other words, she starts by carefully interpreting the sign, statistical significance, and magnitude of her coefficients. Then, she tells us what that means in real-world terms. She makes interesting inferences, but stays close to her data. This is an excellent model for how to do this.

2. **Learn how to write about empirical analysis:** Unlike the Putnam article you read last time, Gay’s article is a much more traditional example of a professional empirical article. Pay particular attention to the following:
   a. **Her integration of the literature review in the section entitled “Race as a Basis for Political Trust”:** She cites a number of relevant studies, but does not simply list them—instead, she uses them as evidence to make an important theoretical point. What is that point? How does she use the articles to make it?
   b. **Her use of theory to develop hypotheses:** Gay does a nice job throughout the piece of developing her hypotheses, but grounding them in theory. She does not just say, for example, that black legislators should cause black voters to feel more positively about government. Instead, she draws on theory to explain why and how that works. Thus, when she does not find the results we might originally expect, she can go back to that theory to refine it.
c. *Her detailed discussion of data*: Learning to write about empirical analysis is hard. We have to figure out a way to clearly communicate complex things. Gay does a nice job of this on a number of different fronts:

i. Constructs and variables: In the “Data and Measures” section, Gay does a nice job of discussing what the constructs are that she wants to measure, and how she measures them with actual variables.

ii. Before she discusses any analyses, she does a nice job of explaining what control variables she included, why she included them, and what she expects.

Some questions you should ask yourself as you read:

1. How does Gay set up her literature review? What is the structure of her argument in the literature review section?

2. What are the constructs Gay is measuring, and what are the measures she uses to measure them?

3. On p. 720, in the last paragraph of the first column, Gay discusses the differences between respondents represented by black Democrats and respondents represented by white Democrats. Why does she do this? Can you think about this in terms of experimental design (control and treatment groups)? What is the control group? The treatment? The treatment group?

4. Why does Gay start with a crosstab in Table 1? What does that accomplish?

5. What are the mechanisms by which having a black legislator affects constituents?