

**SOCIOLOGY 572 – RACE, ETHNICITY, AND INEQUALITY**  
**FALL 2010**  
**Thursdays, 9:50AM-12:30PM**  
**Davison Hall**

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<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>
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This course offers a foundational introduction to the field of race and ethnicity in US Sociology. A vast field at the very foundations of US Sociology, in this course we will cover some of the central theoretical and thematic debates that have characterized the study of race and ethnicity in the discipline. The course is divided in three parts. We will begin with an overview of the trajectory of the study of race and ethnicity in Sociology, along with a deep examination of the different perspectives on the “social construction of race. In the second part we will survey the contributions of key authors as they lay the parameters of the theoretical debates, terms, and language that would frame the study of race and ethnicity. In the third part of the course, we will sample thematic areas that have been at the heart of the study of race ethnicity, explore how they revive or contest the debates of prior eras, and determine whether they have repositioned the theoretical premises and foundations in the study of race and ethnicity. Together, the course hopes to offer an integrated and foundational understanding of how the study of race and ethnicity has been pursued in Sociology and some of the major theoretical and practical concerns that have concerned sociologists with respects to the field race and ethnicity.

Given practical limitations, it is impossible to examine the breadth of work in the area of race and ethnicity. For that matter, this course chooses to focus on foundational works, and thus leans towards “older” work that spans the last 100 years rather than on newer trailblazing work being produced in this field. Nevertheless, while the course is not structured to survey the new contributions in the field, it is my hope that having a strong understanding of the foundations will help motivate, contextualize, and further future study of contemporary work in the field. Nietzsche believed that there are no original texts, and the field of race and ethnicity has been accused of regurgitating (in frame, underlying theories and logics) much of what has been written before, from the very early scholars to the very new contributions in the filed. In exploring this foundational work, and comparing it to newer work, I’m hoping to create a basis to assess work in the field with respects to their ability to break from, enforce, or recreate foundational debates and positions.

### A Note on the Course and Prior Knowledge

This course does not recount the history of different ethnic and racial groups. In fact, you will notice that the course reflects the gaps and valleys that have been true to how race and ethnicity has been studied in Sociology. Nevertheless, and to be able to note these blind-spots, this course assumes a basic general historical understanding of race and ethnicity in the US, that is, how different groups have come into contact and have been incorporated. For those who want to refresh their knowledge on this history, I strongly recommend reading Ronald Takaki, A Different Mirror: A History of Cultural America (New York: Back Bay, 2008). Other web resources that may be useful are:

- <http://www.understandingrace.org/history/index.html>
- The American Anthropological Association's "About RACE: A Public Education Project" in <http://www.aaanet.org/resources/A-Public-Education-Program.cfm>

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

I expect you to attend class and to come prepared and ready (may I dare say excited!) to engage in conversation about the week's readings.

1. 2 Weekly Discussion Questions (10%)

The discussion questions should be based on the readings and should reflect engagement with, and careful thought about, the readings. You are to post your questions on Sakai the Wednesday PRIOR to class, by 5pm.

2. 5 Discussion Memos (25%):

You are to write a total of five 1-2 page memos on the week's readings. In the memos, you will choose one of your weekly discussion questions to go about preliminarily answering the question, from your perspective, or offering ideas as to what directions would be worth pursuing in getting closer to developing an answer to the question. Memos are to be submitted on the Sakai Discussion forum by Wednesday at noon and be accessible to all. You will sign up to submit memos on specific weeks.

3. 2 Discussion Leaderships (30%):

You will lead two class sessions (individually or paired), the weeks to be determined on the first day of class.

The first discussion leadership will occur during Part II of the course. In the first discussion leader role, each facilitator will develop questions and themes pertaining to the readings that the class can discuss.

The second facilitation will occur during Part III of the course. For this discussion leader role, each facilitator will develop questions and themes, and also

introduce a piece of your own choosing to discuss alongside the assigned readings. You may choose an article (academic, journalistic, or current events), a book, or even a creative literary, art work, or film that illuminates or complements the week's readings. Be ready to give sufficient background on the piece so that others can engage with it. You can choose to bring a selection of the piece or an illustration to share, or show a brief clip. I can also suggest readings. Please feel free to consult with me.

- 4. *Final Paper* (35%): DUE in my box by 3pm on MONDAY DECEMBER 13**  
You will complete a final paper of 18-20 pages. The paper can take different forms, based on what would be most useful to you. You can decide to do a research proposal, an analytic literature review, a theoretical essay examining and combining literatures or identifying new directions or perspectives for racial and ethnic research, or revise an ongoing article or piece with the topics, perspectives, and literatures of the course. Be sure to discuss your intent with regards to the topic and format of your paper by **October 7**. A one-page description of the paper topic with five references is **due on October 28**. On the last day of class, you will have the opportunity to briefly present your paper and get feedback and questions that might help completing last-minute revisions to the paper.

## COURSE READINGS

Most course readings will be available via Sakai. However, this is a great time to build your personal library, since many of the texts we will be reading are considered classics in the field. You may obtain most of these texts online.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Week 1:        September 2 Introduction**

### **I. FOUNDATIONS: Sociology and the Social Construction of Race and Ethnicity**

*How have race and ethnicity been studied in Sociology? What does it mean to say that "race is a social construction"? While race is accepted as a "social construction," Sociologists have developed a wide variety of theories and propositions on how race is actually "constructed." In this part we examine different approaches to the study of race in Sociology and the many ways in which the social construction of race has been formulated.*

**Week 2:        September 9 Race and Sociology**

James McKee, Sociology and the Race Problem: The Failure of a Perspective. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press: 1993), Chapter 1: "Sociology and Race: The First Generation"

(p. 22-54); Chapter 2: "From Biology to Culture: Redefining the Race Problem" (p. 55-102); Chapter 3: "From the Race Problem to Race Relations" (p. 103-144).

*{Recommended}*:

Joe Feagin and Clairece Booher Feagin, "Theoretical Perspectives in Race and Ethnic Relations" in Charles A. Gallagher (ed) Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity. (p. 18-33)

### **Week 3:        September 16 The Social Construction of Race and Ethnicity I**

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*, 2nd ed. New York: Routledge (p. 53-76).

Eduardo Bonilla Silva, "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation," *American Sociological Review* Vol. 62, No. 3 (Jun., 1997), p. 465-480.

Loveman, Mara. 1999. "Is 'Race' Essential?" *American Sociological Review* 64(6): 891-98.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 1999. "The Essential Social Fact of Race." *American Sociological Review* 64(6): 899-906.

*{Recommended}*:

Tomás Almaguer, "Racial Fault Lines: The Historical Origins of White Supremacy in California." (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), Introduction (p. 1-16).

### **Week 4:        September 23 The Social Construction of Race and Ethnicity II**

Stuart Hall, "Race, Articulation and Societies Structured in Dominance" in Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism (Paris: UNESCO, 1980) (p. 305-345).

Barbara Fields, "Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America." New Left Review 181 (May/June 1990): 95-118.

Wade, Peter. *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. London: Pluto Press. Ch. 1, "The Meaning of Race and Ethnicity" (p. 5-24).

Charles Wagley, "On the Concept of Social Race in the Americas." In The Latin American Tradition: Essays on the Unity and the Diversity of Latin American Culture, ed. Charles Wagley (New York: Columbia University Press, 1968), 155-174.

*{Recommended}*

Ronald Takaki, Iron Cages: Race and Culture in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990). Ch. 1 "The 'Iron Cage' in the New Nation" (p. 3-15).

## II. LOGICS OF INEQUALITY

*Racial and ethnic inequality is engineered via varying ideological dimensions of “worthiness” vs. “unworthiness,” “fit” vs. “unfit,” “ability” vs. “inability,” “power” vs. “powerlessness,” “having” vs. “lacking.” In the next four weeks we will examine the theoretical debates that underlie explanations of racial and ethnic inequality.*

### **Week 5:        September 30    Culture, Structure**

Oscar Lewis, La Vida: A Puerto Rican Family in the Culture of Poverty—San Juan and New York. (New York: Random House, 1965). Introduction (p. xi-lii)

W. E. B. DuBois, The Philadelphia Negro, Chapter XVIII, “A Final Word” (p. 385-397)

Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth. (New York: Grove Press, 1968). “On National Culture.” (p. 145-169).

Gunnar Myrdal, An American Dilemma, Volume II. (New York: Harper Press, 1944). Chapter 28 “The Basis of Social Inequality” (p. 573-604), Chapter 30 “Effects of Social Inequality” - Sections 4 “The Factor of Ignorance” (p. 656-659) and Present Dynamics (p.660-663)

*Film: Herkovits at the Heart of Blackness* (see before class, available at the Media Library Call No.

### **Week 6:        October 7        Class, Caste**

Oliver Cromwell Cox, “The Modern Caste School of Race Relations,” *Social Forces* 21,2 (December 1942), 218-226.

Allison Davis, Burleigh and Mary Gardner, Deep South: A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1965). Chapters 1-3 (p. 3-83).

Edna Bonacich, “A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism: The Split Labor Market,” *American Sociological Review* 37 (October 1972), 547-59.

Rodolfo Alavarez. 1973 “The Psycho-Historical and Socio-Economic Development of the Chicano Community in the United States,” *Social Science Quarterly*, 53: 920-42.

E. Franklin Frazier, Black Bourgeoisie (New York: Free Press, 1965). Chapter 10 “Behind the Masks” (p. 213-232)

{Recommended}

Sharon M. Collins-Lowry, Black Corporate Executives: The Making and Breaking of a Black Middle Class (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996).

**Week 7:        October 14    **Assimilation, Colonialism, Internal Colonialism****

Robert Park, "Racial Assimilation in Secondary Groups With Particular Reference to the Negro" *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 19, No. 5 (Mar., 1914), p. 606-623

Nathan Glazer, "Blacks and Ethnic Groups: the Difference and the Political Difference it Makes," *Social Problems* 18 (Spring 1971): 444-61.

Milton M. Gordon, Assimilation in American Life: The Role of race, Religion, and National Origins. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1964). Chapter 3 "Nature of Assimilation" (p. 60-83)

Robert Blauner, "Internal Colonialism and Ghetto Revolt," *Social Problems* 16, 4 (Spring 1969), 393-408.

Mario Barrera, Race and Class in the Southwest: A Theory of Racial Inequality (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1979). Chapter 7

Joan W. Moore, "Colonialism: The Case of the Mexican Americans," *Social Problems* 17,4 (Spring, 1970), 463-472.

Michael Burawoy, "The Functions and Reproduction of Migrant Labor: Comparative Material From Southern Africa and the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 81 (March 1976), 1050-87.

**Week 8:        October 21    **Race, Ethnicity, Nation****

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge, 1994), p. 9-47.

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. (New York: Verso, 1992). Introduction (p. 1-8).

Herbert Gans. "Symbolic Ethnicity: The Future of Ethnic Groups and Cultures in America" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 2 (1979): 1-20.

Harold R. Isaacs, "Basic Group Identity: The Idols of the Tribe." In Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, Ethnicity: Theory and Experience (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976), p. 29-52.

Joane Nagel, "Constructing Ethnicity: Creating and Recreating Ethnic Identity and Culture," Social Problems 41 (1994): 152-176.

Orlando Patterson, "Context and Choice in Ethnic Allegiance." In Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, Ethnicity: Theory and Experience (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976), p. 305-349.

*{Recommended}*

Silvia Pedraza, "Beyond Black and White: Latinos and Social Science Research on Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in America." Social Science History 24:4 (Winter 2000).

Clara Rodriguez, Changing Race: Latinos, The Census, and the History of Ethnicity in the United States, (New York: New York University Press, 2000)

Mary C. Waters, Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990)

### **III. TOPICS:**

*In this third part of the course, we will sample five subtopics that have been central to the field of race and ethnicity. Although not exhaustive, these themes provide examples of some of the main avenues for pursuing race and ethnic research, and the theoretical debates, questions, concerns, and methodologies that have characterized the field.*

#### **Week 9:        October 28    **Urban Inequality, Family, and Community****

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "The Tangle of Pathology" in The Black Family: Essays and Studies, Robert Staples ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1971).

Kenneth Clark, Dark Ghetto: Dilemmas of Social Power. (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), Prologue (p. 1-10), Chapter 2 "The Invisible Wall" (p. 11-20)

William Julius Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, The Underclass, and Public Policy (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), Chapter 2 "Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City" (p. 20-62), Chapter 3 "Poverty and Family Structure: The Widening Gap between Evidence and Public Policy Issues" (p.63-92)

Oliver and Shapiro Black Wealth / White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality (New York: Routledge, 2006). Ch. 2 "A Sociology of Wealth and Racial Inequality" (p. 35-54)

W. E. B. DuBois, The Philadelphia Negro. Chapter II, "The Problem" (p. 5-9). Chapter V, "The Size, Age, and Sex of the Negro Population" (p. 46-65), "Family Life" (p. 192-196),

"The Causes of Crime and Poverty" (p. 282-286), Chapter XV "The Environment of the Negro" (p. 287-321), Chapter XVI "The Contact of the Races" (p. 322-367).

*{Recommended}*

Elijah Anderson, Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990). Introduction (p. 1-6), Chapter 5 "In the Shadow of the Ghetto" (p. 138-162).

Sampson, Robert J. and William Julius Wilson. 1995. "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime, and Urban Inequality," p. 36-54 in Crime and Inequality, edited by John Hagan and Ruth D. Peterson. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

*Film: Race, the Power of an Illusion – Episode 3 "The House We Live In"*

### **Week 10:      November 4   Segregation**

Lawrence Bobo and Camille Zubrinsky, "Attitudes on Residential Integration: Perceived Status Differences, Mere In-Group Preference, or Racial Prejudice." Social Forces 74 (1996): 883-909.

William H. Frey, "Central City White Flight: Racial and Nonracial Causes." American Sociological Review 44 (1979): 425-448.

Douglas S. Massey and Nancy A. Denton, American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993), Chapter 4 "The Continuing Causes of Segregation" (p. 83-114).

Rosenbaum, J., Popkin, S., Kaufman, J., Rusin, J. (1991) "Social Intergation of Low Income Black Adults in Middle Class White Suburbs." *Social Problems*, 38(4): 448-461.

David Harris. 1999. "'Property Values Drop When Blacks Move In, Because...': Racial and Socioeconomic Determinants of Neighborhood Desirability." *American Sociological Review* 64, 461-479.

*{Recommended}*

William H. Frey and Reynolds Farley, "Latino, Asian, and Black Segregation in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas: Are Multiethnic Metros Different?" Demography 33 (February 1996): 35-50.

**Week 11:      November 11      Gender**

Kimberle Crenshaw, "The Intersection of Race and Gender." In Kimberle Crenshaw (ed.), Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement. (New York: new Press, Distributed by W.w. Norton & Co., 1995), p. 357-383.

Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "From Servitude to Service Work: Historical Continuities in the Racial Division of Paid Reproductive Labor." Signs, 1992, 18, 1, autumn, 1-43.

Silvia Pedraza. "Women and Migration: The Social Consequences of Gender." Annual Review of Sociology 17 (1991): 303-24.

**Week 12:                      November 18                      Prejudice and Racisms (Old and New)**

Gordon W. Allport. The Nature of Prejudice. (Cambridge: Addison-Wesley, 1954). Chapter 13 "Theories of Prejudice" (p. 206-220); Chapter 16 "The Effect of Contact" (p. 261-284)

Herbert Blumer. "Race Prejudice as Sense of Group Position." Pacific Sociological Review 1 (1958): 3-7.

Lawrence Bobo and Vincent L. Hutchings. "Perceptions of Racial Group Competition: Extending Blumer's Theory of Group Position to a Multiracial Social Context." American Sociological Review, 61 (1996): 951-972.

John F. Dovidio and Samuel L. Gaertner, ed. "The Aversive Form of Racism" in Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism, p. 61-89. (Orlando, FL: Academic Press, 1986).

Thomas Pettigrew, "New Patterns of Prejudice: The Different Worlds of 1984 and 1964." In Fred Pincus and Howard Erlich, Race and Ethnic Conflict (San Francisco: Westview Press, 1994), p. 53-59.

David O. Sears. "Symbolic Racism." In Eliminating Racism: Profiles in Controversy, ed. P.A. Katz and D.A. Taylor (New York: Plenum, 1988), p. 53-84.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006). Chapter 2 "The Central Frames of Colorblind Racism" (p. 25-52).

*{Recommended}*

Glenn Loury, Anatomy of Racial Inequality. (Cambridge, Harvard, 2002). Chapter 3 "Racial Stigma" (p. 55-108).

