

Soc. 131AC  
UC Berkeley  
Fall 2016

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## **The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity in the United States**

This course examines the role of race and ethnicity in the making of United States society, and the efforts to achieve social justice in the United States. The course revolves around several questions:

- What are the dynamics of race and ethnicity in the United States today?
- How does racism intersect with other social dynamics of inclusion, domination and subordination in the making of U.S. society?
- What are continuities and discontinuities between American racism in the past and racism today?
- How has globalization altered the dynamics of race and racism in American society?
- What are strategies for social justice in this era?

This course introduces students to the study of race and ethnicity as social processes, and examines the formation and transformation of racial systems throughout American history. Throughout the course, the dynamics of race and ethnicity are located in relationship to class, gender, sexuality and nationality, and are examined in the context of global socio-economic processes. Sociological theories are used to identify important themes, which are then studied through an examination of history, institutional dynamics in the present, and consideration of strategies for social justice.

Course requirements include: participation in lecture class (10% of course grade), section participation and section writing assignments (30% of course grade), a midterm exam (15% of course grade), a final exam (20% of course grade), and a twelve to fifteen page final paper (25% of course grade). For the final paper, students will utilize the concepts, issues and data addressed in this course to investigate a specific barrier to equal opportunity involving race and/or ethnicity, and to critically assess efforts made to overcome this barrier. Section writing assignments will support the writing of the final paper.

Unlike ‘traditional’ lecture courses, this course expects all students to actively participate in the teaching and learning process. All students are strongly encouraged to come to class meetings having done the reading assigned for that day, with the expectation that everyone will be actively engaged in critical discussion of the readings and lecture material. If you are having difficulty keeping up with the course work for any reason, immediately bring this to the attention of your instructors. We are here to support your learning and success!

### Assigned Course Readings:

- Barlow, Andrew L., Between Fear and Hope: Globalization and Race in the United States Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003
- Noguera, Pedro, The Trouble With Black Boys and Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008
- All other readings are PDFs on the course website (b-course.berkeley.edu)

## Topics and Readings

### I. Race and Ethnicity

#### a. Race, Biology and Sociology (August 30)

Osorio, Pilar and Troy Duster “Race and Genetics: Controversies in Biomedical, Behavioral and Forensic Sciences” American Psychologist 60, 1 (January 2005): 115-128 [PDF]  
 American Sociological Association, “The Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race” [PDF]  
 U.S. Census: Race and Ethnicity 2010 [PDF]

#### b. Ethnicity (September 1)

Bedolla, Lisa Garcia “A Thin Line Between Love and Hate” in Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles Berkeley: UC Press, 2005 [PDF]

## II. Sociological Theories of Race and Ethnicity: What is racism and what are its solutions?

- a. Order theory (September 6-September 8)
  - Alba, Richard and Victor Nee, Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation And Contemporary Immigration, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003, Ch. 6, pp. 215-270) [PDF]
  - Thernstrom, Stephan and Abigail Thernstrom, America in Black and White N.Y.: Simon and Schuster, 1997, pp. 183-202 [PDF]
  - Shelby Steele The Content of Our Character N.Y.: Harper, 1990, pp 111-125 [PDF]
- b. Internal colonial theory (September 13)
  - Malcolm X “The Black Revolution” [PDF]
- c. Group conflict theory (September 15-September 20)
  - Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 1
  - Collins, Patricia Hill “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination” from Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment, Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990 pp.221-238 [PDF]

## III. The Enduring Significance of Race

- a. The significance of history (September 22)
  - Coates, Ta Nehesi, “The Case for Reparations” The Atlantic June, 2014 [PDF]
- b. Slavery and the origins of race (September 27-September 29)
  - Fredrickson, George “The Social Origins of American Racism” [PDF]
- c. Jim Crow, Westward Expansion and Immigration (October 4-October 6)
  - DuBois, W.E.B. from The Souls of Black Folk [PDF]
  - Almaguer, “They Can Be Hired in Masses” from Racial Fault Lines [PDF]
- d. Racial structuring in the 1950s-1960s (October 11)
  - Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Chapter 2
  - Lipsitz, George “The Progressive Investment in Whiteness” [PDF]

## MIDTERM EXAM OCTOBER 13

#### IV. Contemporary Issues of Race and Ethnicity

##### a. Globalization and Race (October 18)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 3

Taylor, Paul, et. al. "Wealth Gaps Rise to Record Highs Between Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics" Pew Research Center July, 2011 [PDF]

##### b. Immigration, Race and Ethnicity (October 20-October 27)

Massey, et. al. Beyond Smoke and Mirrors N.Y.: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003  
Chs. 1, 3 [PDF]

Bedolla, Lisa Garcia "Why Vote? Race Identity(ies) and Politics" in Fluid Borders  
pp.100-136 [PDF]

Barlow, Andrew L., "Globalization, Race and the Politics of Fear" in Michelle  
Bertho, Globalization Comes Home Vol. II, N.Y.: Praeger Publishers,  
2009 [PDF]

##### c. Education (November 1- November 10)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 5

Noguera, Pedro, The Trouble With Black Boys Chs. 1-3, 7-10

Orfield, Gary "Reviving the Goal of an Integrated Society: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge"  
UCLA: The Civil Rights Project, 2009 [PDF]

Video: Making the Grade

##### d. Criminalization (November 8-November 17)

Wacquant, Loic "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration" New Left Review 13,  
(January-February 2002) [PDF]

Alexander, Michelle, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of  
Colorblindness N.Y.: New Press, 2010 [PDF]

#### V. Strategies for social justice (November 22- December 1)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Chs. 6-7

Biondi, Martha "The Radicalism of Black Lives Matter" In These Times August 15, 2016  
<http://inthesetimes.com/features/black-lives-matter-history-police-brutality.html>

Bell, Derrick, "The Racial Limitation On Black Voting Power" [PDF]

**FINAL PAPER DUE ON December 8 at 5PM.  
Late papers lose one grade for each calendar day late.**

**REVIEW CLASS: December 8**

**FINAL EXAM THURSDAY DECEMBER 15 11:30AM-2:30PM**