

Sociology 190
Sociology of Discrimination
Fall 2020 – Tuesdays, 2-4pm – Online

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Introduction

We will examine the social scientific literature on discrimination. We will investigate causes of discrimination, definitions of discrimination, effects of discrimination, and possible responses to discrimination.

Grades

Grades are calculated as follows: 25% from effective participation, and 75% on the written work.

Written Assignments

There are two types of writing assignments: 1) weekly précis and 2) a final paper.

Weekly Précis

Participants must email a short précis to the reading for the week to socpost@gmail.com by 11:59pm on the Sunday preceding class. Please do *not* include attachments in your e-mail; just place your précis in the body of the e-mail message and place "Soc 190" in the subject line of your e-mail. If you do not put "Soc 190" in the subject line your e-mail will probably be lost.

In your précis please state the key point of each reading and note some of the key logic or evidence they provide in support of it. While you should reference specific pages, please use your own words, not quotes.

Weekly précis will count 25% of the seminar grade. They will be evaluated on their accuracy and promptness—late work will receive no credit. Also, please note: Do not submit a "weekly précis" for any week marked with a * in the syllabus (see the next section).

Final Paper

This course requires a final paper, due Dec 15, in which you delve more deeply into a particular categorical dimension of discrimination. You will submit material on your paper four times during the term (Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 3, and Nov 24—due dates are marked with a * in the syllabus). These four "in-term" assignments are graded P/NP. The point of the P/NP assignments is to chop the work of the paper into manageable chunks, to give you feedback on each stage of your work so that you can correct/improve it as you go, and to help us both avoid an unpleasant surprise later. To that end, please note that all P/NP assignments must receive a grade of P in order for you to be sure your paper will satisfy at least the minimal requirements of the course.

The final paper makes up 50% of the seminar grade.

Class Meetings

Attendance and helpful verbal participation (i.e., speaking in class) is required each class period. Seminars depend crucially on each student speaking each class. Class discussion centers on the readings and lecture materials—what do they say, how do we interpret what they say, what do the words in the reading imply concerning other viewpoints we have read and discussed. Thus, useful discussion will reference the assigned reading as it probes the implications, claims, and logic of it. Thus, only those who do the reading will be able to participate helpfully. Talk that does not reference specific aspects of the reading will therefore not count as helpful participation.

As you can see, therefore, seminars run on the dialogue we have together. Seminars are not lecture classes. When a seminar is running well it does so because the students arrive having read the material and having thought about it before class. The professor in such a class lectures minimally if at all; instead, the professor brings forward questions to help the discussion move along. Thus, the professor's job is to keep us probing, searching, questioning. And, it is each student's job to do the same—in the best seminar students ask questions of each other, gently and supportively pushing each of us to clarify our thoughts and deepen our understanding. The only way this can work, of course, is if every student is prepared to engage each week. Thus, please be prepared to talk about the reading. (And, have your reading materials accessible during class).

Reading Materials Logistics

The reading is located in a few different places. Some articles are in a reader that you may either rent or buy at Copy Central, 2411 Telegraph Ave (<https://copycentral.com/2411-telegraph-ave/>) through their deal with RedShelf (<https://copycentral.redshelf.com/>). If you buy the Reader you may pick it up at the store or ask them to mail it to you. If you rent the Reader you will have access to the material for 180 days; afterward you will lose access to any mark-ups you may have made to your electronic copy.

Some readings are housed via electronic depositories that can be reached from the UC-Berkeley network. One that sociologists frequently use is JSTOR; articles that can be accessed on JSTOR are noted in the syllabus with a bold **JSTOR** after the citation. At least one other reading is available in a non-JSTOR electronic archive; any such article will have **OskiCat** or **Google Scholar** after the citation. If it says OskiCat then you should use OskiCat to find the electronic version of the journal or book, and then find the paper or chapter. If it says Google Scholar, you'll need to search for the paper using Google Scholar.

The one book assigned for this class is available in paperback at amazon.com and perhaps elsewhere:

Lucas, Samuel R. 2008. *Theorizing Discrimination in an Era of Contested Prejudice: Discrimination in the United States*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

COURSE-PLAN

- **Sep 1** – Introduction to the Course, Inequality vs. Discrimination, and Illustrative Kinds of Possible Discrimination

DEFINITIONS OF DISCRIMINATION

- **Sep 8** – Discrimination as Defined in US Law

Blank, Rebecca, Marilyn Dabady, and Constance F. Citro. 2004. "Defining Discrimination," pp. 39-54 in *Measuring Racial Discrimination*, edited by Rebecca Blank, Marilyn Dabady, and Constance F. Citro. Washington, DC: National Academies Press. **OskiCat**

Balkin, Jack M. 2001. "Rewriting Brown: A Guide to the Opinions," pp. 44-73 in *What "Brown v. Board of Education" Should Have Said*, edited by Jack M. Balkin. New York, NY: New York University Press. **Project Muse**

- **Sep 15** – Key Economic Theories of Discrimination

Becker, Gary. (1957) 1971. *The Economics of Discrimination, second edition*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (pp. 9-18). **OskiCat**

Pager, Devah, and Diana Karafin. 2009. "Bayesian bigot? Statistical discrimination, stereotypes, and employer decision making." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 621: 70-93. **Google Scholar**

- **Sep 22** – Discrimination as a (Damaged) Social Relation

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. 2008. *Theorizing Discrimination in an Era of Contested Prejudice: Discrimination in the United States, Volume 1*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. **BOOK**

CAUSES OF DISCRIMINATION

- **Sep 29** – Psychological Theories of the Causes of Discrimination

Fiske, Susan T. 2002. "What We Know About Bias and Intergroup Conflict, the Problem of the Century." *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 11: 123-128. **Google Scholar**

Firat, Rengin B., Steven Hitlin, Vincent Magnotta, and Daniel Tranel. 2017. "Putting race in context: social class modulates processing of race in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex and amygdala." *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience* 12: 1314-1324. **Google Scholar**

Merritt, Deborah J. 2008. "Bias, the Brain, and Student Evaluations of Teaching." *St. John's Law Review* 82: 235-287. **Google Scholar**

✻– **Oct 6** – Demographic Theories of the Causes of Discrimination – **Definitions of Discrimination Mini-Essay Due**

Kanter, Rosabeth Moss. 1977. "Some Effects of Proportions on Group Life: Skewed Sex Ratios and Responses to Token Women." *American Journal of Sociology* 82: 965-990. **JSTOR**

Hempel, Lynn M., Julie A. Dowling, Jason D. Boardman, and Christopher G. Ellison. 2013. "Racial threat and white opposition to bilingual education in Texas." *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences* 35: 85-102. **Google Scholar**

– **Oct 13** – Marxist Theories of the Cause of Discrimination

Bonacich, Edna. 1976. "Advanced Capitalism and Black/White Race Relations in the United States: A Split Labor Market Interpretation." *American Sociological Review* 41: 34-51. **JSTOR**

Roemer, John E. 1979. "Divide and Conquer: Microfoundations of a Marxian Theory of Wage Discrimination." *The Bell Journal of Economics* 10: 695-705. **JSTOR**

EFFECTS OF DISCRIMINATION

✻– **Oct 20** – Effects of Discrimination? – **Categorical Dimension Selection Due**

Gaddis, S. Michael. 2015. "Discrimination in the Credential Society: An Audit Study of Race and College Selectivity in the Labor Market." *Social Forces* 93: 1451-1479. **Google Scholar**

Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse. 2000. "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians." *American Economic Review* 90: 715-741. **JSTOR**

Badgett, M.V. Lee. 1995. "The Wage Effects of Sexual Orientation Discrimination." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 48: 726-739. **JSTOR**

Szymanski, Albert. 1976. "Racial discrimination and white gain." *American Sociological Review* 41: 403-414. **Google Scholar**

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. 2013. "Mortality and Discrimination," pp. 263-294 in *Just Who Loses? Discrimination in the United States, Volume 2*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. **OskiCat**

RESPONSES TO DISCRIMINATION

– **Oct 27** – Policy Response: Enforce Anti-Discrimination Law?

Hudson, Mildred J., and Barbara J. Holmes. 1994. "Missing Teachers, Impaired Communities: The Unanticipated Consequences of *Brown v. Board of Education* on the African American Teaching Force at the Precollegiate Level." *Journal of Negro Education* 63: 388-393. **JSTOR**

Bell, Derrick A., Jr. 1980. "*Brown v. Board of Education* and the Interest-Convergence Dilemma." *Harvard Law Review* 93: 518-533. **JSTOR**

✳– **Nov 3** – Policy Response: Revise/Restore Affirmative Action? – **Annotated list of high quality analyses of harm(s) for your paper Due**

Loury, Glenn C. 1992. "Incentive Effects of Affirmative Action." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 523: 19-29. **JSTOR**

Collins, Sharon M. 1997. "Black Mobility in White Corporations: Up the Corporate Ladder but out on a Limb." *Social Problems* 44: 55-67. **JSTOR**

– **Nov 10** – Policy Response: Re-Evaluate Jobs and Reward Structures?

Steinberg, Ronnie J. 1990. "Social Construction of Skill: Gender, Power, and Comparable Worth." *Work and Occupations* 17: 449-482. **Google Scholar**

Killingsworth, Mark R. 1985. "The Economics of Comparable Worth: Analytical, Empirical, and Policy Questions," pp. 86-115 in *Comparable Worth: New Directions for Research*, edited by Heidi I. Hartmann. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press. **OskiCat**

– **Nov 17** – Policy Response: Eliminate Information?

Agan, Amanda, and Sonja Starr. 2018. "Ban the box, criminal records, and racial discrimination: A field experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133: 191-235. **Google Scholar**

Kane, Thomas J. 1998. "Racial and Ethnic Preferences in College Admissions," pp. 431-456 in *The Black-White Test Score Gap*, edited by Christopher Jencks and Meredith Phillips. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. **OskiCat**

✳– **Nov 24** – Policy Response: Provide Reparations? – **Paper Outline Due**

Van Dyke, Jon M. 2003. "Reparations for the Descendants of American Slaves Under

International Law,” pp. 57-78 in *Should America Pay? Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations*, edited by Raymond A. Winbush. New York, NY: Amistad Publications, an imprint of HarperCollins. **READER**

McWhorter, John. 2003. “Against Reparations,” pp. 180-196 in *Should America Pay? Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations*, edited by Raymond A. Winbush. New York, NY: Amistad Publications, an imprint of HarperCollins. **READER**

– **Dec 1** – Community Response: Build Separate Forms or Institutions

Brown, Robert A., and Todd C. Shaw. 2002. "Separate nations: Two attitudinal dimensions of Black Nationalism." *Journal of Politics* 64: 22-44. **Google Scholar**

Rudy, Kathy. 2001. "Radical feminism, lesbian separatism, and queer theory." *Feminist Studies* 27: 191-222. **JSTOR**

Bauman, H-Dirksen. 2009. "Postscript: Gallaudet protests of 2006 and the myths of in/exclusion." *Sign Language Studies* 10: 90-104. **JSTOR**

– **Dec 8** – Wrap-up Discussion

✻ – **Dec 15** – Paper due

Final Papers in pdf format due via email at 12noon.