

Soc. 131AC
UC Berkeley
Spring, 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 realistic 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 class participation (10% of course grade); section participation (10% of course grade), three 2-3 page papers (10% of course grade each), a midterm and final exam (15% of course grade), and a ten to twelve page final paper (20% 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. The three short papers will support the writing of the final paper.

Unlike 'traditional' lecture courses, this course requires 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:

- Alexander, Michelle, Alexander, Michelle, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* N.Y.: New Press, 2010
- 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 (January 21)

- 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 (January 26)

- 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

a. Order theory (January 28-February 2)

- 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 (February 4)

- Malcolm X “The Black Revolution” [PDF]

c. Group conflict theory (February 9-February 11)

Barlow, 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. Slavery and the origins of race (February 16-February 18)

Fredrickson, George “The Social Origins of American Racism” [PDF]

Gordon-Reed, Annette, from The Hemingses of Monticello

N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2008 pp. 80-90 [PDF]

b. Jim Crow, Westward Expansion and Immigration (February 23-February 25)

Almaguer, “They Can Be Hired in Masses” from Racial Fault Lines

MARCH 3: MIDTERM EXAM

c. Racial structuring in the 1950s-1960s (March 8)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Chapter 2

Lipsitz, George “The Progressive Investment in Whiteness” [PDF]

IV. Contemporary Issues of Race and Ethnicity

a. Globalization and Race (March 10)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 3

b. Immigration, Race and Ethnicity (March 15-March 17)

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

Jimenez, Tomás, “Mexican Immigration Replenishment and the Continuing Significance of Ethnicity and Race” American Journal of Sociology 113, 6 (May, 2008): 1527-1567 [PDF]

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

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 21-March 27

c. Education (March 29- April 5)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 5Noguera, Pedro, The Trouble With Black Boys

Video: Making the Grade

d. Housing (April 7)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 4Farley, John E. and Gregory D. Squires, "Fences and Neighbors: Segregation in 21st Century America" Contexts v.4, 1 (Winter, 2005): 33-39 [R]

e. Wealth, income and employment (April 12)

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

f. Criminalization (April 14-April 19)

Wacquant, Loïc "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration" New Left Review 13, (January-February 2002) [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]Alexander, Michelle, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness N.Y.: New Press, 2010

V. Strategies for social justice (April 21- April 28)

- a. The civil rights movement
- b. Minority community empowerment
- c. Human rights
- d. Workers' movements
- e. Globalization and the search for social justice

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Chs. 6-7**FINAL PAPER DUE ON MAY 3****Late papers lose one grade for each calendar day late.****REVIEW CLASS: MAY 5****FINAL EXAM: MAY 13 11:30 AM-2:30 PM**