

SOCIOLOGY 131AC: RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

Class: Tu-Thurs, 2:00 – 3:30pm, 277 Cory Hall

PROFESSOR CYBELLE FOX

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Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm

Sign-up sheet: <http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/wwndo>

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the contours of the American ethno-racial hierarchy in historical and contemporary perspective. It is designed to acquaint students with competing debates about the basic structure and evolution of the American racial hierarchy, with particular attention to the experiences of Blacks, Asians, Latinos, and European immigrants. The course focuses on a few central questions:

- Is racism disappearing or does it persist, perhaps thoroughly embedded in the structure of American society?
- Are Asians and Latinos assimilating or are they racialized?
- How were different European immigrant groups perceived when they first came to America?
- What do multiraciality and changing demographics mean, if anything, for the future of the American ethno-racial hierarchy?

PRE-REQUISITES:

Sociology 1 or Sociology 3 or consent of instructor

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Participation: 20%

Paper outline: 10%

Final Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Participation: Attendance at all lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. You will be responsible for all material discussed in lecture, as well as any announcements. Twenty percent of your final grade will be based on your participation in section. “Participation” includes attendance, thoughtfully contributing to section discussions by engaging both lecture and reading material, and asking pertinent questions.

Paper: The paper is designed to measure your engagement with the course material, which includes lectures, in-class movies, and readings. Paper prompts will be distributed in class on March 6, 2012. Your paper outline, worth 10 percent of your final grade, will be due in class March 13, 2012. The final paper, worth 30 percent of your final grade, will be due in class on April 12, 2012.

Get your outline and paper in on-time. Late outlines and papers will be penalized one third of a grade each day that it is late. The late penalty begins 15 minutes after class has begun. Outlines and papers submitted over email will also be downgraded one third of a grade.

Final Exam: The final exam, worth 40 percent of your final grade, is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2012, from 11:30am to 2:30pm. It will consist of two short essay questions and some identifications (i.e. short answers). It will be based on material for the entire course, including all lectures and readings.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own (including copying other students' work or using Internet resources without proper citation). Those who plagiarize will receive an F. The university might impose other sanctions. For a guide on how to avoid plagiarism, please see: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html>.

COURSE READINGS:

I have prepared a **course reader** for Sociology 131AC, which students can purchase at Copy Central. Two copies of the reader will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.

Students may also purchase the following REQUIRED book from the University Bookstore:

Ira Katznelson, 2005, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America*, New York: W.W. Norton and Company

A copy of Katznelson's book will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1, January 17 – January 19, 2012

Introduction

No Readings

Week 2, January 24 – January 26, 2012

The Social Construction of Race: Institutions

Ian Haney López, 2000, “The Social Construction of Race,” Pp.163-175 in *Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge*, Richard Delgado & Jean Stefancic (eds.), Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Jennifer Hochschild and Brenna Marea Powell, 2008, “Racial Reorganization and the United State Census 1850-1930: Mulattoes, Half-Breeds, Mixed Parentage, Hindoos, and the Mexican Race,” *Studies in American Political Development*, 22(1):59-96*

Week 3, January 31 – February 2, 2012

The Social Construction of Race: Individual and Group Claims

Joane Nagel, 1995, “American Indian Ethnic Renewal: Politics and the Resurgence of Identity,” *American Sociological Review*, 60(6):947-965*

Yen Le Espiritu and Michael Omi, 2000, “Who Are You Calling Asian? Shifting Identity Claims, Racial Classification and the Census” Pp. 43-101 in *The State of Asian Pacific America: Transforming Race Relations*, Paul M. Ong (ed.), Los Angeles, CA: LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute

Week 4, February 7 – February 9, 2012

The Declining Significance of Race?

William Julius Wilson, 2007, “The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions,” Pp. 225-238 in *The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class and Gender*, David B. Grusky & Szonja Szelenyi (eds.), Boulder, CO: Westview Press

Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom, 1997, *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*, New York: Simon & Schuster, (Introduction & Chapter 7)

Week 5, February 14 – February 16, 2012
Racial Attitudes and Interpersonal Discrimination

- Lawrence D. Bobo, 2001, "Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the Twentieth Century," Pp.264-301 in *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*, Vol. I, Neil Smelser, William Julius Wilson, and Faith Mitchell (eds), Washington, DC: National Academy Press
- Devah Pager, 2003, "The Mark of a Criminal Record," *American Journal of Sociology* 108(5): 937-975*

Week 6, February 21 – February 23, 2012
The Institutional Legacies of Past Racism

- Ira Katznelson, 2005, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America*, New York: W.W. Norton and Company, (pp. ix-52 & 113-141)

Week 7, February 28 – March 1, 2012
Race, Inequality, and Contemporary State Policies

- Loïc Wacquant, 2002, "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the 'Race Question' in the US," *The New Left Review* 13:41-60*
- Rosalee A. Clawson and Rakuya Trice, 2000, "Poverty As We Know It: Media Portrayals of the Poor," *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 64:53-64*

**** Paper prompts will be distributed in class on March 6, 2012. ****

Week 8, March 6 – March 8, 2012
Are Asians and Latinos Becoming White?

- Jennifer Lee and Frank D.Bean, 2007, "Reinventing the Color Line: Immigration and America's New Racial/Ethnic Divide," *Social Forces* 86(2):561-586*

**** Your paper outline is due in class on March 13, 2012. ****

Week 9, March 13 – March 15, 2012
The Racialization of Asians

- Min Zhou, 2004, "Are Asian Americans Becoming 'White'?" *Contexts* 3(1):29-37*
- Claire Kim, 1999, "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans," *Politics & Society*, 27(1):105-138*

Week 10, March 20 – March 22, 2012
The Racialization of Latinas/os

- Mae Ngai, 2004, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, (Chapter 2, pp.56-90)
- Ian Haney López, 1998, “Race and Erasure: The Salience of Race to Latinos/as,” Pp.180-195 in *The Latino/a Condition: A Critical Reader*, Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (eds.), New York: New York University Press
- Tomás R. Jiménez, 2008, “Mexican-Immigrant Replenishment and the Continuing Significance of Ethnicity and Race,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 113(6): 1527-1567*

Week 11, March 27 – March 29, 2012

SPRING BREAK

Week 12, April 3 – April 5, 2012
Race and European Immigrants

- James R. Barrett and David Roediger, 1997, “Inbetween Peoples: Race, Nationality and the ‘New Immigrant’ Working Class,” *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 16(3): 3-44*
- David Roediger, 2005, *Working Toward Whiteness: How America’s Immigrants Became White*, New York: Basic Books, (Chapter 5, pp. 133-156)

**** Final papers are due in class on April 12, 2012. ****

Week 13, April 10 – April 12, 2012
Multiraciality

- Kimberly McClain DaCosta, 2003, “Multiracial Identity: From Personal Problem to Public Issue,” Pp.68-84 in *New Faces in a Changing America: Multiracial Identity in the 21st Century*, Loretta Winters and Herman DeBose (eds.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications
- Ranier Spencer, 2003, “Census 2000: Assessments in Significance,” Pp.99-110 in *New Faces in a Changing America: Multiracial Identity in the 21st Century*, Loretta Winters and Herman DeBose (eds.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications
- Jennifer Hochschild, “Multiple Racial Identifiers in the 2000 Census, And then What?” Pp.340-353 in *The New Race Question: How the Census Counts Multiracial Individuals*, Joel Perlmann and Mary Waters, (eds.), New York: Russell Sage Foundation

Week 14, April 17 – April 19, 2012
Changing Demographics, Cooperation, and Conflict

Sylvia Zamora, "Framing Commonality in a Multiracial, Multiethnic Coalition," Pp. 299-322 in *Just Neighbors? Research on African American and Latino Relations in the United States*, Edward Telles, Mark Q Sawyer, and Gaspar Rivera-Salgado (eds.), New York: Russell Sage Foundation. (*Reading available on bspace*)

Week 15, April 24 – April 26, 2012
The Future of the American Racial Hierarchy

Claire Jean Kim, 2004, "Imagining Race and Nation in Multiculturalist America," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 27(5):987-1005*

Cathy J. Cohen, 2011, "Millennials & The Myth of the Post-Racial Society: Black Youth, Intra-generational Divisions & the Continuing Racial Divide in American Politics," *Daedalus* 140(2):197-205.*

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, 2004, "From Bi-racial to Tri-racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 27(6):931-950*

**** The Final Exam will take place on Monday, May 7, 2012, 11:30am-2:30pm ****