

Soc. 131AC  
UCB  
Summer 2011  
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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 today?
- What are continuities and discontinuities between racism in the past and racism today?
- How does racism intersect with other forms of inclusion, domination and subordination in the making of society?
- 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, based on both attendance and contributions to the class (25% of course grade); a midterm exam (25% of course grade), a final examination (25% of course grade) and a ten-page paper (25% of course grade). The paper topic is an exploration of one racial barrier to equal opportunity and efforts to remedy that barrier.

Late papers will lose a grade for each calendar day late, and will not be accepted after June 28.

## Course readings:

- Soc 131AC Summer, 2012 reader, available at Copy Central (2560 Bancroft)
- Barlow, Andrew L. Between Fear and Hope: Globalization and Race in the United States Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003
- Desmond, Matthew and Mustafa Emirbayer Racial Domination, Racial Progress N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 2010

## Course Outline

### Introduction to course (May 21)

#### I. Race, biology and sociology (May 22)

Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 1

Osorio, Pilar and Troy Duster “Race and Genetics: Controversies in Biomedical, Behavioral and Forensic Sciences” American Psychologist 60, 1 (January 2005): 115-128 [R]

American Sociological Association, “The Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race” [R]

#### II. Social Theories of Race and Ethnicity

##### a. Order theory (May 23)

Thernstrom, Stephan and Abigail Thernstrom America in Black and White N.Y.: Simon and Schuster, 1997, pp. 183-202 [R]

Shelby Steele The Content of our Character N.Y.: Harper, 1990 pp 111-125 [R]

##### b. Internal colonial theory (May 24)

Malcolm X “The Black Revolution” [R]

Allen, Robert L. “The Social Context of Black Power” from Black Awakening in Capitalist America N.Y.: Doubleday, 1970, pp. 41-70; 79-88 [R]

##### c. Race, class, gender conflict theory (May 29)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 1

\*Collins, Patricia Hill “Intersecting Oppressions” [R]

#### III. The Enduring Significance of Race: Connecting the Past to the Present

##### a. Slavery and the origins of race (May 30)

Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 2  
 Fredrickson, George “The Social Origins of American Racism”[R]

- b. Jim Crow racism (May 31)  
 DuBois, W.E.B., “Our Spiritual Strivings” from The Souls of Black Folk N.Y.: Bantam, 1989, pp. 1-9 [R]  
 Almaguer, Tomas “They Can Be Hired in Masses” from Racial Fault Lines pp. 153-182 [R]
- c. Historic immigration policy and race (June 4)  
 Massey, Beyond Smoke and Mirrors Ch. 3 [R]
- d. Racial structuring in the 1950s-1960s (June 5)  
 Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Chapter 2  
 Lipsitz, George “The Progressive Investment in Whiteness” [R]
- e. Catch up day (June 6)

## **MIDTERM EXAM JUNE 7**

### IV. Contemporary Issues of Race and Ethnicity

- a. Globalization (June 11)  
 Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Chapter 3  
 Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 3
- b. Race and Education (June 12-June 14)  
 Video “Making the Grade”  
 Barlow, Ch. 5  
 Desmond and Emirbayer Ch. 7  
 Noguera, Pedro, City Schools and the American Dream, Ch. 4 [R]
- c. Race, Jobs and Wealth (June 18)  
 Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 4  
 Ehrenreich, Barbara and Dedrick Muhammad “The Recession’s Racial Divide” New York Times September 15, 2009, p.30 [R]
- d. Race and Housing (June 19)  
 Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 4  
 Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 5
- e. Race and Criminal Justice System (June 20-June 21)  
 Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 6  
 \*Alexander, Michelle, selections from The New Jim Crow [R]

- e. Immigration and globalization (June 25-June 26)  
“The Immigration Debate” CQ Researcher Feb. 1, 2008: 97-120 [R]  
Andreas, Peter, from Border Games [R]  
Jimenez, Tomás, “Mexican Immigration Replenishment and the  
Continuing Significance of Ethnicity and Race” American  
Journal of Sociology 113, 6 (May, 2008): 1527-1567 [R]

**PAPER DUE JUNE 27 IN CLASS**

V. The Future of Race (June 27)

- Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 6-7  
Desmond and Emirbayer, Ch. 11

**FINAL EXAM JUNE 28 IN CLASS**