

Soc. 131AC
UC Berkeley
Summer, 2015

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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, exclusion, 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 (attendance, five forum posts on b-space) (20% of course grade); one midterm exam (20% of course grade), a final exam (25% of course grade), and a ten page final paper (35% of course grade). For the final paper, students will have two choices for topics: 1. Utilize the concepts, issues and data discussed this course to investigate and evaluate the impact of a specific social movement that has addressed racism in the United States. 2. Utilize the concepts, issues and data discussed in this course to evaluate Martin Luther King's arguments in Where Do We Go From Here?

Assigned Course Readings:

- Barlow, Andrew L., Between Fear and Hope: Globalization and Race in the United States Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003
- King, Martin Luther Jr., Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community Boston: Beacon Press, 2010(1968)
- All other readings are PDFs on the course website (bcourse.berkeley.edu)

Topics and Readings

I. Race as a Social Construct (May 27)

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]

II. Racial Prejudice, Racial Discrimination and Societal Racism: (May 28)

Bertrand and Mullainathan, “Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment in Labor Market Discrimination” Cambridge: National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 9873, July 2003 [PDF]

II. Sociological Theories of Race and Ethnicity

a. Order theory (June 1)

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 (June 2)

Malcolm X “The Black Revolution” [PDF]

King, Where Do We Go From Here? Ch. 2 “Black Power,” pp. 23-70

c. Group conflict theory (June 3-June 4)

King, Where Do We Go From Here? Ch. 3 “Racism and the White Backlash”
pp. 71-108

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. Slavery and the origins of race (June 8)

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

Gordon-Reed, Annette, from The Hemminges of Monticello

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

b. Jim Crow, Westward Expansion and Immigration (June 9-June 10)

DuBois, W.E.B., “Our Spiritual Strivings” from The Souls of
Black Folk N.Y.: Bantam, 1989, pp. 1-9 [PDF]

Almaguer, Tomas, “They Can Be Hired in Masses” from Racial Fault Lines [PDF]

c. Racial structuring in the 1950s-1960s (June 11)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Chapter 2

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

King, Where Do We Go From Here? Ch. 5 “Where We Are Going” pp. 143-176

IV. Contemporary Issues of Race and Ethnicity

a. Globalization and Race (June 15)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 3

King, Where Do We Go From Here? Ch. 6 “The World House” pp.177-210

MIDTERM EXAM JUNE 16

b. Criminalization (June 17- June 18)

Wacquant, Loic “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, selections from The New Jim Crow [PDF]

c. Education (June 22-June 23)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope Ch. 5

Noguera, Pedro City Schools and the American Dream N.Y.: Teachers College Press, 2003: pp. 23-81 [PDF]

Video: Making the Grade

d. Immigration, Race and Ethnicity (June 24-June 25)

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]

Valenzuela, Abel, et. al., “On the Corner: Day Labor in the United States” (UCLA Working Paper 2006) [PDF]

e. Housing and wealth (June 29)

Barlow, Between Fear and Hope, Ch. 4

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

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

V. Strategies for social justice (June 30-July 1)

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

FINAL PAPER DUE on JUNE 25 in class. Late papers lose a grade for each day late, and will not be accepted after July 1.

FINAL EXAM: JULY 2