

SOCIOLOGY 244 RACE AND ETHNICITY

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TTh: 2:40-4:00
Library 387
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Course objectives: This course is a general introduction to the sociology of race and ethnic relations, with a particular emphasis on the situations and experiences of African-Americans. A sociological approach to the topic begins with the assumption that race and ethnicity are socially and politically constructed phenomena: They are phenomena that vary significantly across time and place, and that ultimately rest on supra-individual processes of group boundary formation, segregation, and the creation of inter-group (racial) hierarchies. Theoretically, this approach involves a sustained critique of both the concepts of assimilation, and the assumption that prejudice, individual attitudes, or representations of race are the *ultimate* foundations of segregation or racial hierarchy. Methodologically, it implies that race and ethnicity in general, and the circumstances of African Americans in particular, can best be grasped via theoretically informed, comparative and historical analyses of group dynamics and social structure. The basic objective of the course is to understand: 1) the social, political and historical conditions under which segregation, racial hierarchies and racial conflict emerge, and 2) the institutions through which racial boundaries and hierarchies are produced and reproduced in the United States.

Course outline: The course pursues these objectives in four steps. Part one introduces the sociology of race and ethnicity as an analytical approach concerned first and foremost with social context, the construction of group boundaries, and the structural bases of identity formation. Here, we develop and critique theories of assimilation. We identify the contradictions or dilemmas assimilation can pose for African-Americans. And we highlight the need to ground arguments about integration and identity within an analysis of structural constraints, racial hierarchies, and their institutional foundations.

Part two develops the major theoretical approaches to race and ethnicity in sociology. Under what conditions do segregation, group boundaries and racial hierarchies emerge, become salient, or crystallize in enduring institutions? We address *macro approaches* that emphasize class relations and internal colonialism; *interactionist and social-psychological approaches* that foreground the role of face-to-face relations and other micro-level processes in the construction of race; and *middle-range structuralist* approaches that emphasize ethnic competition, split labor markets, ethnic enclaves, and the cultural division of labor.

Part three uses these approaches to explore the institutional foundations and historical development of African American race relations. Here, we expand our analyses of segregation and racial hierarchies by taking on William Julius Wilson's path-breaking arguments about the declining significance of race, and by examining the key institutions involved in the creation and reproduction of racial boundaries and inequality in the United States. Topics include the racial state; the rise and fall of slavery and Jim Crow; residential segregation and the development of the "underclass;" the role of schools, prisons and the criminal justice system in creating racial

divisions; and the welfare state. As we move through this section, we will also use the theoretical approaches from part one to explain the rise and mobilization of these institutions, while deepening our appreciation of the role that institutions and public policy have played in segregating and subordinating African Americans.

Part four concludes our analyses of the socially and politically constructed character of race by addressing the civil rights movement, and the vital role that social movement played in contesting and transforming race relations in the United States. Our agenda here is temper crude determinist arguments with the realization that what has been made can be unmade, while continuing to think analytically about the conditions under which African Americans and others can mount successful challenges to state policy and existing social relations.

Course prerequisite: Sociology 211, Introduction to Sociology, is required for this course. In particular, the course assumes a background in classical sociological theory and its modern applications; a basic introduction to social stratification and political sociology; and familiarity with some elementary analytical concepts and techniques, including correlational analysis, p-values, and the logic hypothesis testing.

Readings and writing assignments: This is a reading and discussion based course whose success hinges critically on students' preparation and active participation. The reading is varied, ranging from historical and ethnographic materials to multi-variate statistical analyses, and often difficult, requiring a collective "piecing-together" of the argument, evidence and method within the conference. It is also cumulative in character. Thus, *falling behind in the reading or failing to prepare for conference is not an option.*

To facilitate careful reading, focussed group discussion, and cumulation, students will write *four two to four page memos* over the course of the semester and a short *final paper*. These writing assignments will begin with a basic explication of a theory or research monograph. They will then involve more advanced exercises, like applying theories to a case, formulating competing hypotheses about an outcome, conducting a comparative analysis of mobility or discrimination across two ethnic groups, and designing a research project. Memos will be announced one week in advance. The final paper is due Tuesday, April 28. *I accept no late work.*

The following *books* are required reading and can be purchased from the Reed College Bookstore. To minimize the costs of books, I've ordered paperback and used copies whenever possible. These books are also available on 2-hour reserve at the Reed College library.

Orlando Patterson. *Slavery and Social Death*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Elijah Anderson. *Streetwise*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

William Julius Wilson. *The Declining Significance of Race*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton. *American Apartheid*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro. *Black Wealth, White Wealth*. 2nd Ed. Routledge Press.

Jonathon Kozol. *Savage Inequalities*. New York: Harper Trade

The following is not required, but contains useful comparative and historical information.

Adalberto Aguirre and Jonathon Turner. *American Ethnicity*. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Articles and *book chapters* required for this course are available either on e-reserve or through JSTOR, as noted.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: FRAMING THE PROBLEM: ASSIMILATION, GROUP BOUNDARIES AND THE CREATION OF RACIAL HIERARCHIES

Week 1: (January 27, 29)

Introduction: What is race? What is the sociology of race?

Assimilation theory: The disappearance of race and ethnic identity?

Robert Park, 1950. "The Nature of Race Relations." Chapter 7, pp. 81-116 and 147-151 in *Race and Culture*. Glencoe, IL: The Free Press. (E-reserve)

Charles Hirschman. 1983. "America's Melting Pot Reconsidered." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 9: 397-423. (JSTOR)

Herbert Gans. 1979. "Symbolic Ethnicity: The future of ethnic groups and cultures in America." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*: 2: 1-20. (E-reserve)

Week 2: (February 3, 5)

Identity, institutions, history and the social construction of boundaries

Daniel Horowitz. 1975. "Ethnic Identity." Chapter 4, pp. 111-140 in Nathan Glazer and Daniel P. Moynihan, *Ethnicity: Theory and Experience*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (E-reserve)

Joane Nagel. 1994. "Constructing Identity: Creating and Recreating Ethnic Identity and Culture." *Social Problems* 41 (1): 152-176. (JSTOR)

Elijah Anderson. *Streetwise* (selections)

Week 3: (February 10, 12)

Social and historical construction of boundaries 2:

Orlando Patterson. *Slavery and Social Death* (Tuesday: Intro, 1-3; Thursday: 11-12)

**PART II:
EXPLAINING BOUNDARIES, SEGREGATION AND RACIAL HIERARCHIES**

A. Social psychological and interactionist approaches

Week 4: (February 17, 19)

Attitudes

Lawrence Bobo and James Kluegel. 1993. "Opposition to Race-Targeting: Self Interest, Stratification Ideology or Racial Attitudes?" *American Sociological Review*. 58 (4): 443-464. (JSTOR).

Marylee Taylor. 1998. "How White Attitudes Vary with the Racial Composition of Local Populations." *American Sociological Review* 63: 512-35. (JSTOR)

Interactions and relations in public

Gordon Allport. 1954. "The Effect of Contact." Chapter 16, pp. 261-82 in *The Nature of Prejudice*. New York: Doubleday Anchor. (E-reserve)

Lee Segelman and Susan Welch, 1993. "The Contact Hypothesis Revisited: Black-White Interaction and Positive Racial Attitudes." *Social Forces* 71: 781-95. (JSTOR)

Joe Feagin. 1991, "The Continuing Significance of Race; Antiracial Discrimination in Public Places." *American Sociological Review* 1:101-116. (JSTOR).

b) Macro approaches: internal colonialism, race and class

Week 5: (February 24, 26)

Internal Colonialism

Robert Blauner. 1972. *Still the News: Racial Oppression in America*. Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-63. New York: Harper and Row. (Book on reserve)

Class Approaches

William DuBois. 1948. "Is Man Free?" *Scientific Monthly* 66: 432-4. (E-reserve)

Michael Riech. 1981. *Racial Inequality*. Chapters 6-7, pp. 216-304. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (E-reserve)

c) Middle range structuralism in sociology

Week 6: (March 3)

Middleman Minority Theory, Ethnic Enclaves and the Cultural Division of Labor

Edna Bonacich. 1973. "A Theory of Middleman Minorities" A Theory of Middleman Minorities." *American Sociological Review*, 38: 583-594. (JSTOR)

Micheal Hechter. 1978. "Group Formation and the Cultural Division of Labor" *American Journal of Sociology* 84 (2): 293-318. (JSTOR)

Alejandro Portes and Robert D. Manning. 1986. "The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Examples." Pp. 47-68 in Susan Olzak and Joane Nagel. *Competitive Ethnic Relations*. Orlando: Academic Press. (E-reserve)

Week 6, continued: (March 5)

Split Labor Market Theory

Edna Bonacich. 1972. "A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism: The Split Labor Market" *American Sociological Review*, 37: 547-559. (JSTOR)

Terry Boswell. 1986. "A Split Labor Market Analysis of Discrimination against Chinese Immigrants, 1850-1882." *American Sociological Review* 51: 352-71 (JSTOR)

E Beck and Stewart Tolnay. 1990. "The Killing Fields of the Deep South: The Market for Cotton and the Lynching of Blacks, 1882-1930." *American Sociological Review* 55: 526-39. (JSTOR)

Week 7: (March 10, 12)

Ethnic Competition Theory and the Political Construction of Ethnic Boundaries

Michael Hannan. 1994. "The Dynamics of Ethnic Boundaries." Pp 500-508 in David Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification: Class, Race and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. Boulder: Westview Press. (E-Reserves).

Susan Olzak, Suzanne Shanahan and Elizabeth McEneaney. 1996. "Poverty, Segregation, and Race Riots: 1960-1993" *American Sociological Review*. 61: 590-613. (JSTOR)

Joane Nagel. 1986. "The Political Construction of Ethnicity." Pp. 93-112 in Susan Olzak and Joane Nagel. *Competitive Ethnic Relations*. Orlando: Academic Press. (E-reserves)

Spring Break

**PART III:
INSTITUTIONS AS SITES OF SEGREGATION**

Week 8: (March 24, 26)

The rise and fall of the racial state?

William Julius Wilson. *The Declining Significance of Race* (Tuesday: 1-5; Thursday: 6-7)

Reread Feagin. "The Continuing Significance of Race...."

Week 9: (March 31, April 2)

Residential segregation and the markets for housing

Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton. *American Apartheid* (Tuesday: 1-4; Thursday 5-6).

Week 10: (April 7, 9)

Wealth and its unequal production

Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro. *Black Wealth, White Wealth* (Tuesday: 1-5; Thursday 6)

Week 11: (April 14, 16)

Schools and racial sorting

Jonathon Kozol. *Savage Inequalities* (Tuesday 1-4; Thursday 5-7)

Week 12: (April 21, 23)

Crime and unequal punishment

Robert J. Sampson. 1987. "Urban Black Violence: The Effect of Male Joblessness and Family Disruption." *American Journal of Sociology*, 93: 348-382 (JSTOR)

Gary LaFree. 1982. "The Effect of Sexual Stratification By Race on Official Reactions to Rape." *American Sociological Review*: 842-854. (JSTOR).

Steven Messner, Robert Baller and Mathew Zevenbergen. 2005. "The Legacy of Lynching and Southern Homicide." *American Sociological Review* 70: 633-655 (E-reserve)

David Jacobs, Jason Carmichael and Stephanie Kent. 2005. "Vigilantism, Current Racial Threat, and Death Sentences." *American Sociological Review* 70: 656-677. (E-reserve)

**PART IV:
THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND
THE SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN RACE RELATIONS**

Week 13: (April 28, 30)

Social movements, contestation and the possibilities for transformation

Aldon Morris. 1981. "Black Southern Sit-in Movement: An Analysis of Internal Organization." *American Sociological Review* 46:744-67. (JSTOR)

Doug McAdam. 1983. "Tactical Innovation and the Pace of Insurgency." *American Sociological Review* 48: 735-54. (JSTOR)

Aldon Morris. 1993. "Birmingham Confrontation Reconsidered: An Analysis of the Dynamics and Tactics of Mobilization." *American Sociological Review* 58: 621-36. (JSTOR)

Doug McAdam. 1986. "Recruitment to High Risk Activism: The Case of Freedom Summer." *American Journal Sociology* 92: 64-90. (JSTOR)

All for Tuesday with memo. A big push at the end, but then done!

****** FINAL PAPERS DUE TUESDAY APRIL 28 AT 6PM ******