Quantifying Race and Ethnicity
SOC 585 Fall 2014 (#5440)
(October 18 – November 24)

Instructor: Dr. Abigail A. Sewell
Office: Tarbutton 204
Emory University
Hours: 9:00-11:00am T

Class Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm Sa October 18
1:00pm – 3:00pm M October 20 – November 24
5:30pm – 7:30pm M October 20 – November 24

Class Location: Tarbutton 206 (1-3pm)/Tarbutton 104 (5:30-7:30pm)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

In large part scientists developed social statistics to measure and study population groups distinguishable by racial characteristics. Amidst the eugenics debates of the early 20th century, interest in social statistics grew exponentially as social scientists sought to demarcate racial categories and to assess differences between racialized human population groups. Although interest in social statistics was tethered closely to the study of race and social stratification initially; most social scientists now study these topics separately. As a result, best practices in social statistics are often blind to race and ethnicity, and students of race and ethnicity are often uninterested in statistics. Moreover, researchers often are not cognizant of the ways their understandings of race and ethnicity seep into their research designs.

This course will develop quantitative researchers that give greater, more careful consideration to how race and ethnicity fit in their statistical models. It will also develop race and ethnicity scholars with a greater ability to understand, critique, and use quantitative methods. The course is mostly conceptual and participants are strongly recommended, but not required, to have had one of each of the following courses prior to attendance: a basic course in race and ethnicity and a basic course in research methods. At the heart of this course is the central question of how the social construction of race and ethnicity influences the ways in which researchers measure racial and ethnic phenomenon.

This course counts for three (3) credits.
OVERVIEW OF COURSE CONTENT

The course will cover four broad topic areas of interest to social scientists interested in race, ethnicity, and social statistics: 1) the conceptualization, theories, and ethics of race and ethnicity; 2) the various measurements of race and ethnicity in social science research; 3) research design and data collection in quantitative studies of race and ethnicity; and 4) statistical analysis and inference of racial and ethnic phenomena. Key debates that will be addressed include: Are race and ethnicity really the same concept? How are they different? How and why are race and ethnic groups created? What is their function in Western society? What is the primary motivation for intergroup ethnoracial prejudice? How are the concepts of “inequality” and “stratification” different? How are race and ethnicity operating in our investigations? Are race and ethnicity independent variables, control variables, or outcome variables? Are race and ethnicity moderating or mediating a statistical relationship? How do we know when an ethnoracial disparities exists? How does one measure various forms of prejudice and discrimination using quantitative methodologies? How is race and ethnicity taken into account when planning our studies? Is it possible to achieve construct invariance between racial and ethnic groups? When wanting to take into consideration race and ethnicity, are all sampling frames considered equal?

COURSE GRADING

Weekly Reviews (10)  50%
Paper  50%

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Participation is encouraged. Attendance is required. One point of the final grade will be deducted for each part of the workshop missed. One point will be deducted for missing any portion of the lecture, and one point will be deducted for missing any portion of the lab.

You are expected to be in class, on time, every day.

Roll call will be taken.

If you are not in your seat by the time your name is called, you will be considered late. After the second tardy mark, there will be a three (3) percent reduction in your grade for the course. No exceptions.
REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

Books

Required
1) ISBN: 9781433804748

2) ISBN: 978074254815

Optional
1) ISBN: 9780871544926

2) ISBN: 9781611320015

3) ISBN: 9780816639090

Articles

See Outline of Course Reading Content. All required articles can be found on course’s website. This site contains all of the required articles as well as a substantial set of reference readings on race and ethnicity that are not required for the course.
REQUIRED EXERCISES

Attendance is required.

A fairly substantial amount of reading is also required, as the course is designed to be a full semester course. There are two types of reading for the course: 1) sections of required or recommended books (e.g., Knight, Roosa, and Umaña-Taylor, Ch 1) and 2) articles from journals (e.g., Anderson and Fienberg 2000 *Current Sociology*). *Students are expected to read all chapters or sections that are assigned from required and recommended books.* To complete the readings of the articles, articles (not chapters from required/recommended books) will be randomly assigned. A listing of assigned readings will be provided on the course website.

Throughout the course, students are expected to complete a sub-section review for the assigned article. At the end of the course, a methods statement will be produced using all of the information learned in the course. Thus, there are two points of student evaluation – sub-section reviews and the methods statement. Each portion of the course is weighted evenly toward the course grade.

First, sub-section reviews will be scored. There are 14 sub-sections of the course taught over the 7 days that the course meets. By the end of the semester, fourteen sub-section reviews should have been submitted. Ten of the 14 sub-section reviews will be graded. At least one sub-section review will be graded for every day that the course meets. Students will complete a one-page review of the assigned reading for each sub-section. The reviews will summarize and critique the readings. Reviews will include composing a set of discussion questions that students feel will be useful in promoting discussion as well as their own clarifying questions. Reviews should be submitted online by 1pm the day that the course meets via the course website.

Second, students will compose a written methods statement. The methods statement can include a variety of formats but is intended to demonstrate student mastery of the course material. Student methods statements will be decided on during one-on-one meetings with the course instructor. Possible methods statements include – but are not limited to: an extended review of one of the course topics (e.g., conceptualizing ethnoracial orders or measuring prejudice), a study proposal, or a methodological critique of the research in a particular area of race and ethnicity. The statement is expected to be between 15 and 20 double-spaced pages, including references (single-spaced) and appendices. A first draft of the written methods statement is due by noon of Tuesday, November 25, 2014. Comments on the first draft will be provided by Friday, November 28, 2014. The final draft of the written methods statement is due by noon of Tuesday, December 16, 2014.
OUTLINE OF COURSE READING CONTENT

Section 1: Conceptualization, Theories, and Ethics of Race and Ethnicity

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

Lecture 1. Scope of Course; Theoretical Agendas in Measuring Race and Ethnicity

Readings
Knight, Roosa, and Umaña-Taylor, Ch. 1.
Zuberi and Bonilla-Silva, Ch. 2

Supplemental

Lecture 2. Conceptual, Cross-Cultural, and Policy Challenges

Readings

Supplemental
Krysan and Lewis 2004, Ch. 2 and 4
Stanfield 2011, Ch. 1
Section 2: Various Measurements of Race and Ethnicity in Social Science Research

Monday, October 20, 2014

Lecture 3. What Are We Measuring? Ethnicity, Raciality, and Ethnoraciality Models

Readings


Supplemental

Krysan and Lewis 2004, Ch 5.


Lecture 4. Reliability and Validity in Measurements of Race and Ethnicity

Readings

Knight, Roosa, and Umaña-Taylor, Ch. 4 and 5.


MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014

Lecture 5. Multidimensionality in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

Readings


Supplemental


Lecture 6. Causal Inference in Social Science Research on Race and Ethnicity


Supplemental

Section 3: Research Design and Data Collection in Quantitative Studies of Race and Ethnicity

Monday, November 3, 2014

Lecture 7. Survey Design Issues: (Mis)Classification and OV Bias

Readings


Supplemental


Lecture 8. Sampling Issues

Readings

Knight, Roosa, and Umaña-Taylor, Ch. 2.


Supplemental


Lecture 9. Multi-Group Categorizations of Race and Ethnicity

Readings


Supplemental


Lecture 10. A Choice of Ideology or Methodology? Multi- vs. Single Group Models

Readings


Supplemental


Section 4: Statistical Analysis and Inference of Racial and Ethnic Phenomena

Monday, November 17, 2014

Lecture 11. Group Comparison Models I: Mediation Models

Readings

Zuberi and Bonilla-Silva, Ch 5.
Zuberi and Bonilla-Silva, Ch 7.


Supplemental


Lecture 12. Group Comparison Models II: Moderation Models

Readings


Supplemental

Monday, November 24, 2014

Lecture 13. Group Comparison III: Decomposition and Social Structure Methods

Readings

Zuberi and Bonilla-Silva, Ch. 19.


Lecture 14. Intersectionality Models

Readings


Supplemental