INSTRUCTOR AND CLASS CONTACT INFORMATION:

Course Faculty: Dr. Angela Dixon (she/her/hers)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a comparative study of race, ethnicity, and colorism in various societies around the world, with a particular focus on Afro-descendant populations. Although the vast majority of sociological research has focused on race within the U.S. context, a comparative lens allows us to contextualize the U.S. experience by drawing on an increasingly global literature. We will compare and contrast the ways race, ethnicity, and colorism function in different societies. We will discuss key theoretical and empirically-based readings in the literature on race, ethnicity, and colorism.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

No prerequisites required, but a prior course or foundation in race and ethnicity will be helpful background knowledge.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Understand how race, ethnicity, and colorism are conceptualized across countries and the consequences of these conceptualizations.
2. Examine the historical origins and sociological definitions of race, ethnicity, and colorism from societies throughout the world, with a focus on the Americas and Afrodescendant populations in the United States.
3. Understand several approaches to the identification, classification, construction, and measurement of race, ethnicity, and skin color and how each approach can yield different life chances for individuals in their respective societies.
4. Identify the various theoretical perspectives and be able to apply these frameworks to analyze contemporary events in society.

GRADING:

- Attendance and Participation (20%)
- Weekly Memos (20%)
- Discussion Leading (25%)
- Final Presentation (5%)
- Final Paper (30%)

READINGS

1. 1/27/21: Introduction and Syllabus Overview
2. **2/3/21 Review of Definitions and Configurations**

3. **2/10/21 History of Race and Ethnicity**

4. **2/17/21 NO CLASS: UNIVERSITY REST DAY**

5. **2/24/21 U.S. Exceptionalism**

   - Edward Telles (2004) *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*: 4-46

7. **3/10/21 Latin America (Part 2)**
Watch Black in Latin America E01, Cuba: The Next Revolution. 


8. 3/17/21 Europe


9. 3/24/20 Colorism (Part 1)


10. 3/31/21 Colorism (Part 2)


11. 4/7/21 Asia

Arudou D. 2013. An introduction to Japanese society's attitudes toward race and skin color. See Hall 2013, pp. 49–69

12. 4/14/21 Africa
  ■ Chapter 8 “Encounter with difference”
  ■ “South Africa” section pg. 159-162

13. 4/21/21 Contemporary Perspectives
○ Watch PSBT India. 2020. *#unfair*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwyIQE0vXug&feature=emb_logo
○ Watch Netflix. 2020. “Skin.”
  https://www.netflix.com/watch/81270770?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2C3abb8c4d5e4b2f4c3bca34845e424f437af231514521%3Ac507228b831468f71462b9b94236c4bc1db006f2ed%2C3abb8c4d5e424f437af231514521%3Ac507228b831468f71462b9b94236c4bc1db006f2ed%2C%2C

14. 4/28/21 Final Presentations