

EMORY UNIVERSITY
SOC 585: ADVANCED TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, SPRING 2021
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON RACE, ETHNICITY, AND COLORISM

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

- Desmond, M. and M Emirbayer. 2009. "What is Racial Domination?" *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 6: 335–355.
- Sanjek, Roger. 1996. "Introduction" to Gregory and Sanjek, eds. *Race*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, p. 1-17.
- Roth, W. D. 2016. "The Multiple Dimensions of Race." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39: 1310– 1338.
- Sen, Maya, and Omar Wasow. 2014. "Race as a 'Bundle of Sticks': Designs That Estimate Effects of Seemingly Immutable Characteristics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19.

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

- Jablonski, Nina G. 2012. "Encounters with Difference" *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color*. Berkeley: University of California Press (Chapter 8, 103-116).
- Frederickson, George M. 2002. "Religion and the Invention of Racism" in *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Dixon, Angela R., and Edward E. Telles. 2017. "Skin Color and Colorism: Global Research, Concepts, and Measurement." *Annual Review of Sociology* 43(1): 405–24.
- Weiner, Melissa F. 2012. "Towards a Critical Global Race Theory: Critical Global Race Theory." *Sociology Compass* 6(4):332–50.

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

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

- Davis, Floyd James. *Who is black?: One nation's definition*. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001. Chapter 1
- Lee, J. and F. D. Bean. 2004. "America's Changing Color Lines: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Multiracial Identification." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 221–242.
- Mora, G Cristina. 2014. "Introduction: Making Hispanics: Classification and the Politics of Ambiguity" in *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. University of Chicago Press. p.1-16
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. "From bi-racial to tri-racial: Towards a new system of racial stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27, no. 6 (2004): 931-950.

6. 3/3/21 Latin America (Part 1)

- Telles, Edward E., and Christina A. Sue. 2009. "Race Mixture: Boundary Crossing in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35(1): 129–46.
- Edward Telles (2004) *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*: 4-46
- Telles, Edward, and PERLA. 2014. *Pigmentocracies: Ethnicity, Race, and Color in Latin America*. UNC Press Books., Chapter 1
- *Watch Black In Latin America Episode 1 Haiti and The Dominican Republic The Roots of Division*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukISf8CJ5GQ> (January 17, 2021).

7. 3/10/21 Latin America (Part 2)

- *Watch Black in Latin America E01, Cuba: The Next Revolution.*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7p30a4auyA> (January 17, 2021).
- Sue, Christina A. 2013. *Land of the Cosmic Race: Race Mixture, Racism, and Blackness in Mexico.* Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, *Chapter 1*
- Telles, Edward, and PERLA. 2014. “Chapter 3: From Whiteness Miscegenation to Tri-Ethnic Multiculturalism: Race and Ethnicity in Colombia” in *Pigmentocracies: Ethnicity, Race, and Color in Latin America.* UNC Press Books.,
- Telles, Edward, and PERLA. 2014. *Pigmentocracies: Ethnicity, Race, and Color in Latin America.* UNC Press Books., Conclusion

8. 3/17/21 Europe

- Richard Alba (2005) “Bright vs. Blurred Boundaries: Second Generation Assimilation and Exclusion in Germany, France, and the United States.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28 (January): 20-49
- Simon, Patrick. 2011. “Statistics, French Social Sciences and Ethnic and Racial Social Relations.” *Revue française de sociologie* 51(5): 159–174.
- Small, Stephen. 2019. “Ethnicity, Race, and Black People in Europe.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of Ethnicity*, ed. Steven Ratuva. Singapore: Springer Singapore, 513–533.
- Essed, Philomena, and Isabel Hoving. 2014. “Innocence, Smug Ignorance, Resentment: An Introduction to Dutch Racism.” *Thamyris/Intersecting: Place, Sex and Race* 27(1):9–29.

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

- Jablonski, Nina G. 2012. “Skin Color in the Age of Exploration” in *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color.* Berkeley: University of California Press., Chapter 9, p. 117-133
- Hunter, Margaret L. 2005. *Chapter 5: “The Beauty Queue: Advantages of Light Skin”* Race, Gender, and the Politics of Skin Tone. Routledge.,
- Rondilla JL, Spickard P. 2007. *Is Lighter Better? Skin-Tone Discrimination Among Asian Americans.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. p. 1-44
- Monk, Ellis P. 2014. “Skin Tone Stratification among Black Americans, 2001–2003.” *Social Forces* 92(4): 1313–37.

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

- Hunter, Margaret L. 2011. “Buying Racial Capital: Skin-Bleaching and Cosmetic Surgery in a Globalized World.” *Journal of Pan African Studies* 4(4): 142–162.
- Jablonski, Nina G. 2012. “Desiring Darkness” in *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color.* Berkeley: University of California Press., Chapter 14
- Hordge-Freeman, Elizabeth. 2015. “What’s Love Got to Do with It? Racial Stigma and Embodied Capital” in *The Color of Love: Racial Features, Stigma, and Socialization in Black Brazilian Families.* First edition. Austin, [Texas]: University of Texas Press., Chapter 1, p. 33-71
- Kalev, Henriette Dahan. 2018. “Colorism in Israel: The Construct of a Paradox.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 62(14): 2101–16

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

- Jha, Meeta. 2015. “Chinese Femininity, Beauty Economy, Cosmetic Surgery” in *The Global Beauty Industry: Colorism, Racism, and the National Body*. Routledge, (Chapter 4).
- Jha S, Adelman M. 2009. Looking for love in all the white places: a study of skin color preferences on Indian matrimonial and mate-seeking websites. *Stud. South Asian Film Media* 1(1):65–83
- Rondilla JL. 2009. Filipinos and the color complex: ideal Asian beauty. See Glenn 2009, pp. 63–80

12. 4/14/21 Africa

- Jablonski, Nina G. 2012. *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color*. Berkeley: University of California Press.,
 - Chapter 8 “Encounter with difference”
 - “South Africa” section pg. 159-162
- Lewis KM, Harris S, Camp C, Kalala W, Jones W, et al. 2013. The historical and cultural influences of skin bleaching in Tanzania. See Hall 2013, pp. 19–38
- Khalfani, Akil Kokayi, and Tukufu Zuberi. 2001. “Racial Classification and the Modern Census in South Africa, 1911-1996.” *Race & Society* 4(2): 161–76.
- Marx, Anthony W. 1996. "Race-Making and the Nation-State." *World Politics* 48:180-208.

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%2C3abb8cd b2ccb4ac3b4845e424f437af231514521%3Ac507228b831468f71462b9b94236cbd1b006f2ed%2C3abb8cdb2ccb4ac3b4845e424f437af231514521%3Ac507228b831468f71462b9b94236cbd1b006f2ed%2C%2C>

14. 4/28/21 Final Presentations