

SOC 4550
Topics in Ethics and Society: Race and Ethics

Spring 2014

Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Wilson 235

Instructor Info:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 -10:30 a.m.
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Course Description:

How does race shape people's conceptions of right and wrong? What are the racial implications of decisions about justice? How do past ethical violations in research on racial minorities matter in the present? This course will consider these and other questions as we survey theories, concepts, and empirical evidence in sociology that contribute to public debates about race and ethics. We will consider issues such as affirmative action, death penalty sentencing, reproductive rights, race-based medicine, the legacies of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, race and genetic advances, and more. In each unit of the course, we will focus on a case study at the intersection of race and ethics, and we will engage in readings, in-class activities, and discussions that relate to the case.

Grading Criteria:

Class Attendance and Participation: 30%

This includes attending each class, being prepared to discuss the readings, and contributing to the discussions.

Weekly Reading Responses: 20%

Please submit a brief written or video response to the scholarly readings on weeks where it is assigned on the course outline. The responses should be posted to the discussion forums of Collab by Wednesday at 2 p.m. Written responses should be between 150-250 words. Video responses (using Kaltura) should be 1-2 minutes. You may use the response to share your disagreements or agreements with the authors, to ask questions, to connect ideas across several readings, to link the readings to recent events in the news, or to respond to another student's response. You may focus on one scholarly reading or respond to all of the scholarly readings.

Research Paper: 20%

Your paper should use sociological research to address a debate related to race and ethics. The paper should be 12-15 pages, and it should draw on at least eight scholarly sources related to the topic. It will be due on Monday, April 14, 2014 by 5 p.m. You will receive a more detailed handout to guide you.

Midterm and Final Exams: 30%

The midterm and final exam (15% each toward course grade) will examine your comprehension of key definitions, theories, and empirical findings from seminar meetings and course readings. The midterm will be held in class on Thursday, February 27. The final exam will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Wilson 235.

Readings:

All course readings will be available on Collab. They will be linked from the online interactive syllabus.

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

January 14:

- First day of class!

No response assignment this week.

January 16:

- Haimes, Erica. 2002. "What Can the Social Sciences Contribute to the Study of Ethics? Theoretical, Empirical and Substantive Considerations." *Bioethics* 16(2): 89-113.

RACE, ETHICS, AND EDUCATION

January 21:

- Case Study: Sanchez, Claudio. 2012. "Firestorm Erupts Over Virginia's Education Goals." WBUR. November 12.
- Diamond, John. 2007. "Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Rethinking the Connection between High-Stakes Testing Policy and Classroom Instruction." *Sociology of Education* 80(4): 285-313.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, January 22 by 2 p.m.

January 23:

- Ferguson, Ronald. 2003. "Teachers' Perceptions and Expectations and the Black-White Test Scores Gap." *Urban Education* 38(4): 460-507.

- Pollock, Mica. 2010. "Introduction" Pp. 1-21 in *Because of Race: How Americans Debate Harm and Opportunity in Our Schools*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

January 28:

- Case Study: Listen – NPR. 2012. "Justices Return to Affirmative Action in Higher Ed." October 12.
- Katznelson, Ira. 2006. "When Is Affirmative Action Fair? On Grievous Harms and Public Remedies." *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 73(2): 541-568.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, January 29 by 2 p.m.

January 30:

- DiTomaso, Nancy, Rochelle Parks-Yancy, and Corinne Post. 2011. "White Attitudes Toward Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action." *Critical Sociology* 37(5): 615-629.
- Samson, Frank. 2013. "Multiple Group Threat and Malleable White Attitudes Toward Academic Merit." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 10(1): 233-260.

February 4:

- Kirkland, Anna and Ben Hansen. 2011. "How Do I Bring Diversity?" Race and Class in the College Admissions Essay" *Law and Society Review* 45(1): 103-138.
- Fischer, Mary A. and Douglas Massey. 2007. "The Effects of Affirmative Action in Higher Education." *Social Science Research* 36(2): 531-549.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, February 5 by 2 p.m.

February 6:

- Babbagh, Daniel. 2011. "Affirmative Action: The U.S. in Comparative Perspective." *Daedalus* 140(2): 109-120.

RACE AND BUSINESS ETHICS

February 11:

- Case Study: Powell, Michael. 2009. "Banks Accused of Pushing Mortgage Deals on Blacks." *The New York Times* June 6.
- Carruthers, Bruce. 2009. "A Sociology of Bubbles." *Contexts* 8(3): 22-26.

Assignment: Submit brief note to the Collab discussion forums by Wednesday, February 12 at 2 p.m. about the topic you have selected for your research paper – 150 to 250 words

February 13:

- Oliver, Melvin. 2008. "Sub-Prime as a Black Catastrophe." *American Prospect* September 20.

- Ross, Lauren M. and Gregory Squires. 2011. "The Personal Costs of Subprime Lending and the Foreclosure Crisis: A Matter of Trust, Insecurity, and Institutional Deception." *Social Science Quarterly* 92(1): 140-163.

RACE, ETHICS, AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

February 18:

- Case Study: Listen – NPR. 2011. "Debate Boils Over African American Abortions." July 18.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. 1932. "Black Folk and Birth Control." *Birth Control Review* 16(6): 166-167.
- Johnson, Charles S. 1932. "A Question of Negro Health." *Birth Control Review* 16(6): 167-169.
- Ross, Loretta. 1998. "African American Women and Abortion." in *Morality Matters: Race, Class, and Gender in Applied Ethics*, Jeffrey Di Leo and Gregorio Di (ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, February 19 by 2 p.m.

February 20:

- Beisel, Nicola and Tamara Kay. 2004. "Abortion, Race, and Gender in Nineteenth Century America." *American Sociological Review* 69(4): 498-518.
- Collins-Patricia Hill. 1994. "Shifting the Center: Race, Class, and Feminist Theorizing about Motherhood." Pp. 45-65 in *Motherhood: Ideology, Experience, Agency*, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Grace Chang, and Linda R. Forcey (eds.) New York: Routledge.

February 25:

- Garcia, Lorena. 2012. "'Handling Your Business': Sexual Respectability and Peers." Pp. 83-114 in *Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself: Latina Girls and Sexual Identity* New York: New York University Press.
- Roberts, Dorothy. 2009. "Race, Gender, and Genetic Technologies: A New Reproductive Dystopia?" *Signs* 34(4): 783-804.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, February 26 by 2 p.m.

February 27:

- Midterm Exam

RACE AND RESEARCH ETHICS

March 4:

- Case Study: McNeil, Donald. 2010. "U.S. Apologizes for Syphilis Tests in Guatemala." *New York Times* October 1.
- Washington, Harriet. 2008. "Profitable Wonders: Antebellum Experimentation with Slaves and Freedmen." Pp. 52-74 in *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of*

Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present.
New York: Doubleday.

Assignment: Submit list of at least eight scholarly sources you plan to use for your research paper to Collab by March 5 at 2 p.m.

March 6:

- Reverby, Susan. 2001. "More than Fact and Fiction: Cultural Memory and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study." *The Hastings Center Report* 31(5): 22-28.
- Freimuth, Vicki, Sandra C. Quinn, Stephen B. Thomas, Galen Cole, Eric Zook, and Ted Duncan. 2001. "African American' Views on Research and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study." *Social Science and Medicine* 52(5): 797-808.

March 11 and 13: Spring Break

March 18:

- Case Study: Skloot, Rebecca. 2000. "Henrietta's Dance." *Johns Hopkins Magazine* April.
- Landecker, Hannah. 2010. "HeLa." Pp. 140-179 in *Culturing Life: How Cells Became Technologies*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Assignment: Submit brief outline of research paper (approx. 1 page) to Collab by Wednesday, March 19 at 2 p.m.

March 20:

- Matthew, Dayna B. 2008. "Race, Religion, and Informed Consent: Lessons from Social Science." *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* 36(1): 150-173.
- Watch – Holloway, Karla. 2012. "Henrietta Lacks and the Ethics of Privacy." Distinguished Speaker Series. Georgia Technological University. Atlanta, GA.

RACE AND GENETICS

March 25:

- Case Study: Stein, Rob. 2011. "Race Emerges in Debate Over 'Personalized Medicine.'" *Washington Post* July 31.
- Kahn, Jonathan. 2012. "The Birth of BiDil: How a Drug Becomes 'Ethnic.'" Pp. 48-70 in *Race in a Bottle: The Story of BiDil and Racialized Medicine in a Post-Genomic Age*. New York, Columbia University Press.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, March 26 by 2 p.m.

March 27:

- Morning, Ann. 2011. "Textbook Race: Lessons on Human Difference." Pp. 66-102 in *The Nature of Race: How Scientists Think about Human Difference* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

- Phelan, Jo C., Bruce Link, and Naomi Feldman. 2013. "The Genomic Revolution and Beliefs about Essential Racial Differences: A Backdoor to Eugenics?" *American Sociological Review* 78(2): 167-191.

RACE, CRIME, AND JUSTICE

April 1:

- Case Study: Watch - PBS. 2011. "Troy Davis Case in Georgia Rekindles Debate Over Death Penalty." September 20.
- Radelet, Michael and Marian Borg. 2000. "The Changing Nature of Death Penalty Debates." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 43-61.

Assignment: Submit first two pages of research paper on Collab by Wednesday, April 2 at 2 p.m.

April 3:

- Walker, Samuel, Cassia Spohn, and Miriam DeLone. 2011. "The Color of Death: Race and the Death Penalty." Pp. 345-402 in *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.
- Fleury-Steiner, Benjamin and Victor Argothy. 2004. "Lethal 'Borders': Elucidating Jurors' Racialized Discipline to Punish in Latino Defendant Death Cases." *Punishment and Society* 6(1): 67-84.

April 8:

- Case Study: Ramsey, Donovan. 2013. "Race, Politics, and the Battle to Legalize Marijuana." *The Grio* January 26.
- Becker, Howard. 1953. "Becoming a Marihuana User." *American Journal of Sociology* 59(3): 235-242.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, April 9 by 2 p.m.

April 10:

- Bobo, Lawrence and Victor Thompson. 2006. "Unfair By Design: The War on Drugs, Race, and the Legitimacy of the Criminal Justice System." *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 73(2): 445-472.
- Robert, Dorothy. 2004. "The Social and Moral Cost of Incarceration in African American Communities." *Stanford Law Review* 56(5): 1271-1305.

MIGRATION AND ETHICS

April 14: Research paper due by 5 p.m.

April 15:

- Case Study: Otis, John. 2012. "Following Her Dream, and Hoping for the Dream Act." *New York Times* November 25.
- Dreby, Joanna. 2013. "The Ripple Effects of Deportation Policies on Mexican Women and Their Children." Pp. 73-89 in *The Other People: Interdisciplinary*

Perspectives on Migration, Meg Wilkes Karraker (ed.) New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

No reading response this week.

April 17:

- Golash-Boza, Tanya and Pierette Hondagneu-Sotelo. 2013. "Latino Immigrant Men and the Deportation Crisis: A Gendered Racial Removal Program." *Latino Studies* 11: 271-292.
- Lee, Catherine. 2010. "'Where the Danger Lies': Race, Gender, and Chinese, and Japanese Exclusion in the United States, 1870-1924." *Sociological Forum* 25(2): 248-271.

RACE AND MEDIA ETHICS

April 22:

- Case Study: Ralli, Tania. 2005. "Who's a Looter? In Storm's Aftermath, Pictures Kick Up a Different Kind of Tempest." *New York Times* September 5.
- Tierney, Kathleen, Christine Bevc, and Erica Kuligowski. 2006. "Metaphors Matter: Disaster Myths, Media Frames, and Their Consequences in Hurricane Katrina." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 604(1): 57-81.

Assignment: Response to the week's reading(s) due Wednesday, April 23 by 2 p.m.

April 24:

- Byng, Michelle. 2010. "Symbolically Muslim: Media, Hijab, and the West." *Critical Sociology* 36(1): 109-129.
- Jacobs, Ron. 1999. "Race, Media, and Civil Society." *International Sociology* 14(3): 355-372.

COURSE WRAP-UP

April 29:

- Review and Wrap-Up

FINAL EXAM

May 9, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Wilson 235.