

Northwestern University
Department of Sociology
208-0 Race Section 20
Spring Quarter, 2016
Professor: Aldon Morris
Race and Society
Phone: (847) 491-3448
1812 Chicago Ave., Room 102
Location: Annenberg G15.

Class Hours: Tuesday-and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:20pm
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am-10:30pm and by appointment
amorris@northwestern.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Christopher T. Robertson,
ChristopherRobertson2013@u.northwestern.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:30-2:30 at Unicorn Cafe.

Course Overview

Race inequality and conflict remain an enduring reality of American society. This course will explore the sociological and historical roots of race relations and the conflict they engender. We will investigate whether “races” are real or whether they are socially constructed. Much has been said about whether America has finally transcended racism. We will investigate this claim. Some social scientists argue that classic Jim Crow racism has been replaced by a new regime of racism based in our prison system. We will explore this important claim. Attention will also focus on how racial inequalities and conflicts could be addressed constructively by different races and societal leaders. In this regard, we will examine how the Civil Rights Movement overthrew the Jim Crow Regime.

In addition to the required readings we will view relevant films.

Required Readings:

Ann Morning, **The Nature of Race**

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, **Racism Without Racists**

Michele Alexander, **The New Jim Crow**

United States Department of Justice, **Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department**

Aldon Morris, **The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement**

Course Format:

The class will consist of lectures and classroom discussions.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows:

92% – 100% = A	72% – 77.9% = C
90% – 91.9% = A-	78% – 79.9% = C+
88% – 89.9% = B+	70% – 71.9% = C-
82% – 87.9% = B	68% – 69.9% = D+
80% – 81.9% = B-	62% – 67.9% = D
	60% – 61.9% = D-
	59.9% or below = F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: In the Department of Sociology, we take academic dishonesty seriously. All students are subject to the university policies related to academic integrity. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the assignment or failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. Even unintended breaches of academic integrity are violations and will be treated as such. It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules of academic integrity—ignorance is not a defense.

Midterm Examination 1/3 of final grade
Final Examination 1/3 of final grade
Classroom discussion 1/3 of final grade

Course Outline and Required Reading:

I. Are there Races?

March 31: A. Introduction to the Course

April 5: B. Defining Races
Read: Morning, pp: 1- 65

April 7: C. How Do we Know what We Know about Race?
Read: Morning, pp: 66-102

April 12: D. Do Human Beings Differ Racially?
Read: Morning, pp: 103-248

II. Nature of Racism

April 14: A. Race in America Today
Read: Bonilla-Silva, pp: 1-52
At the River I Stand

April 19: B. The Idea of Color Blindness
Read: Bonilla-Silva, pp: 53-102

April 21: C. Color Blindness, Continued
Read: Bonilla-Silva, pp: 103-150

April 26: D. Impact of Racism
Read: Bonilla-Silva, pp: 151-206

May 28: Black President and Racism
Read: Bonilla-Silva, pp: 207-242

May 3: Midterm

III. Modern American Racism

May 5: A. Race and Caste

Read: Alexander, pp. 1-96

May 10: B. Justice and Black America

Read Alexander, pp: 97-177

May 12: C. New Jim Crow

Read: Alexander, pp: 178- 261

May 17: Racial Oppression in Ferguson

Read: Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department, pp: 1-61

May 19: Racial Oppression in Ferguson

Read: Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department, Continued, pp: 62-102

IV. Racism and Social Change

May 24: A. Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

Read: Morris, pp: ix-76

May 26: B. Movement Power and the Civil Rights Movement

Read: Morris, pp: 77-138

May 31: C. Social Disruption and Outcomes of the Rights Movement

Read: Morris, pp: 139-228

June: 2 D. Students, Youth and Fall of Old Jim Crow

Read: Morris, Read pp: 229-290

June 5 Reading Week

Final Examination as Scheduled