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 Some social scientists argue that classic Jim Crow racism has been replaced by a new regime of racism based in our prison system.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*
Course Format:

The class will consist of lectures and classroom discussions.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows:

- 92% – 100% = A
- 90% – 91.9% = A-
- 88% – 89.9% = B+
- 82% – 87.9% = B
- 80% – 81.9% = B-
- 72% – 77.9% = C
- 78% – 79.9% = C+
- 70% – 71.9% = C-
- 68% – 69.9% = D+
- 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