SOCIOMETRY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY
IN MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Tuesdays | 2:30p-5:20p | Conklin Hall 100

Course Overview

This course is designed to explore the often complex and misunderstood topics of race and ethnicity. We will investigate the ways in which race has been socially and historically constructed. We will think critically about the sociological dimensions of race and ethnicity and explore their influences on identity, racial categorization, interlocking systems of oppression, and struggles for social justice. The course engages historical and contemporary theories of race and racism with a primary focus on the United States, however we also incorporate international perspectives and experiences.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

✦ Understand basic concepts, theories, and research methods used in the study of race and ethnicity;

✦ Communicate effectively about various sociological issues related to race and ethnicity in written, visual, and oral forms;

Contact Info

Dr. Melissa M. Valle
vallestudents@gmail.com
(Best method of contact)
Phone: 973-353-5461
(Worst method of contact)
Office: Conklin 407
Office Hours:
Tues. 5:30-6:30p
Wed. 4:30-5:30p
Please use WeJoinIn to sign up. Link on Canvas.

Please be mindful that this syllabus IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
✦ Understand and analyze the process of racialization and ethnicization across time in the United States;
✦ Understand how racism operates as an ideology and a set of practices that permeates all aspects of life;
✦ Understand how race, class, and gender work together to create identities and inequalities and;
✦ Understand how racial justice could be imagined and realized.

**Required Texts**

ISBN-10: 0190889438

Roberts, Dorothy. 2012. *Fatal Invention*
ISBN-10: 1595588345

Hill, Marc Lamont. 2016. *Nobody*
ISBN-10: 150112496X

**Assignments (See “Assignments” document for details)**

✦ Group presentation on academic article= 10 pts
✦ 10 online weekly quizzes = 20 pts (2 points each)
✦ *Fatal Invention* examination = 30 pts
✦ *Nobody* Final examination = 30 pts
✦ Attendance & participation, including weekly discussion board posts = 10 points
✦ Extra credit (up to 3 additional points)

A = 90-100+
B+ = 87-89
B = 80-86
C+ = 77-79
C = 70-76
D = 60-69
F = 0-59

Your grades will be routinely updated on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check them to assure they are current and accurate. Guidelines for all assignments are available on Canvas and must be followed to receive assignment credit.
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<th>Course Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>9/7 (Wk 1)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Go over syllabus</td>
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<td>9/14 (Wk 2)</td>
<td>The Origin of the Idea of Race</td>
<td>R&amp;R (1) 3-30; Roberts (Preface) X-XII, (1)* 9-25</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 1 Quiz; Group 1 Roberts Chap. 1 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 1</td>
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<td>9/21 (Wk 3)</td>
<td>Racial Ideologies and Sociological Theories of Racism</td>
<td>R&amp;R (2) 32-63; Roberts (2)* 26-54</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 2 Quiz; Group 2 Roberts Chap. 2 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 2</td>
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<td>9/28 (Wk 4)</td>
<td>Racism and Nativism in Immigration Policy</td>
<td>R&amp;R (3) 64-102; Roberts (3)* 57-80</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 3 Quiz; Group 3 Roberts Chap. 3 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 3</td>
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<td>10/5 (Wk 5)</td>
<td>Racism in the Media: The Spread of Ideology</td>
<td>R&amp;R (4) 103-129; Roberts (4)* 81-109</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 4 Quiz; Group 4 Roberts Chap. 4 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 4</td>
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<td>10/12 (Wk 6)</td>
<td>Skin-Tone Stratification and Colorism</td>
<td>R&amp;R (5) 130-154; Roberts (6)* 123-146</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 5 Quiz; Group 5 Roberts Chap. 6 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 6</td>
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<td>10/19 (Wk 7)</td>
<td>Educational Inequality</td>
<td>R&amp;R (6) 155-181; Roberts (10)* 226-257</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 6 Quiz; Group 6 Roberts Chap. 10 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 10</td>
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<td>10/26 (Wk 8)</td>
<td>Income and Labor Market Inequality</td>
<td>R&amp;R (7) 182-210; Roberts (11)* 261-286</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 7 Quiz; Group 7 Roberts Chap. 11 Presentation; Discussion board on Roberts 11</td>
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<td>11/2 (Wk 9)</td>
<td>Inequality in Housing and Wealth</td>
<td>R&amp;R (8) 211-234; Roberts (12) 287-308, Conclusion 309-312</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 8 Quiz; In-Class Fatal Invention Examination</td>
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<td>11/9 (Wk 10)</td>
<td>Racism and the Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>R&amp;R (9) 235-266; Hill (Preface) XVII-XX, Nobody (1)* 1-30</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 9 Quiz; Group 8 Hill Chap. 1 Presentation; Discussion board on Hill 1</td>
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<td>11/16 (Wk 11)</td>
<td>Health Inequalities, Environmental Racism &amp; Environmental Justice</td>
<td>R&amp;R (10) 267-291; Hill Broken (2)* 31-66</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 10 Quiz; Group 9 Hill Chap. 2 Presentation; Discussion board on Hill 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23 (Wk 12)</td>
<td>Fall Recess</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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Final examination: December 23, 2021 11:45 - 2:45 pm

*Book chapter to be presented by group

R&R = Race and Racisms textbook; Roberts = Fatal Invention; Hill= Nobody

Course Rules and Regulations

The primary goal of academia is the free exchange of information and ideas. Thus, in this class RESPECTFUL discussion is MANDATORY! While students are required to be respectful of divergent opinions and viewpoints, that does not mean you have to agree with everyone, including the professor. Differences in opinion can provide an opportunity to look at situations from someone else’s point of view, which can only facilitate our intellectual growth. Such discussions will be impossible without a basic level of courtesy and respect. This said, certain types of speech will not be tolerated, including offensive remarks and personal attacks that demean and belittle other students. Criticize ideas, not individuals! Our primary commitment is to learn together.

The best way to achieve the aforementioned things is through six practices:

1. **Good Citizenship:** In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). **Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings.** Food is not permitted in classrooms. Subject to rules that may be posted at individual classrooms, beverages may be consumed provided that face coverings are promptly replaced after taking a drink. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My
Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: myRutgers Portal. Students who violate the mask policy will be asked to leave the classroom for that session. Student violations will be handled by the Student Conduct Committee. Let’s hope this is never necessary and that we can have an exciting and safe semester that runs as smoothly as possible given all that’s going on in the world. You feel me?

2. **Attendance**: Attendance is mandatory. I will be taking attendance using Qwickly Attendance on Canvas. Please be mindful that we only really meet 13 times. Each class is 3 hours long because it is a double period. Therefore, missing one class is equivalent to missing 2 classes. Absences may be excused with appropriate notification from a medical doctor for illness or from the Dean of Students (e.g., family emergencies). You are allowed **one unexcused absence after the first day of class**. If you do not register in time and miss the first two weeks of class then the second absence counts as your excused absence. If you want to let me know that you will be absent, use Rutgers’ (extremely efficient) Self-Reporting Absences App [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/). **If absent, you are still responsible for missed materials and making arrangements to turn in any assignments.** First, try to get notes from at least three people who were in class, then if necessary, come to office hours for clarification. If you check in and did not actually attend class, you will have violated the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct and I will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct. If you ask me to check in for you because you did not make the 20 min grace period to check in, it will count as a partial absence.

1. Due to COVID-19 concerns, I am bit more flexible with the attendance policy to accommodate students struggling with health or family concerns. If you are sick, STAY HOME! If something is happening at home, let me know and stay home.

3. **Do your own work**: This class is based on actively thinking, speaking and writing. Give me your own thoughts with **evidence** from course related or outside materials. There will be **no tolerance** for intellectual dishonesty. Cheating, plagiarism (including “borrowing” information from the internet), fabrication of facts, and other forms of intellectually dishonest practices are subject to disciplinary action. Matters of academic dishonesty are taken very seriously and will involve severe repercussions. I will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

   *All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. Ensure that it is listed on every assignment you submit. “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.”*
4. **Submit assignments on time**: Assignments are due prior to the start of class. **Quizzes cannot be made up**. If they are not submitted by the start of class you will receive a zero. You are allowed only one missed quiz and this applies to everyone, including those who register late for the course.

5. **Informed participation**: Classes will flow as long as you produce ideas and thoughts. Read carefully and completely all of the assigned readings prior coming to class. Good discussion involves good preparation. If you are not prepared and making informed statements, you are not participating!

6. **Electronics**: All cell phones, music players, and other devices must have the ringer COMPLETELY disabled (No loud vibrations, please). No phones are to be visible and present during class time. Laptops and tablets (e.g., iPads) are allowed, but wi-fi should be switched to the off position unless necessary for the class work. If students are caught using electronics in ways that are unrelated to the course, they will be asked to leave and I reserve the right to restrict laptops and tablets based on internet abuse.

**Communication**

Our primary means of communicating with one another will be through Canvas. You must check Canvas regularly for announcements, including syllabus changes. If you wish to meet with me during office hours, you must sign up using the WeJoinIn link on Canvas. Office hours are an opportunity for you to ask me to clarify things you might not understand, discuss grades, or something else that you’ve been pondering.

**You must communicate with me via your Rutgers email account.** It is the only way that I can guarantee that the emails are coming from you and can, therefore, discuss your work. Email is the best way to communicate with me. Please use the **gmail address** listed on p. 1. (vallestudents@gmail.com)

Working with many students can make managing email a challenge; this general account insures that all correspondence is seen by me and dealt with in an efficient way. I check and respond to my email regularly. Students should not, however, anticipate an immediate reply, nor that I will be available outside of normal business hours. In other words, please allow at least 24 hours for reply and note that after hours, on weekends, and when traveling, my response will be slowed to non-existent. Calling my office phone will almost guarantee that you won’t be able to reach me.

**Email etiquette**: Email has developed into a very informal medium. But I would encourage you to treat class emails as you would any formal correspondence – think of this as the way in which you would write your supervising employer. This means doing simple things like capitalizing letters when they should be capitalized, providing a salutation (e.g. “Dear Professor/Dr. Valle”) and signing your full name. Please provide a subject heading for your email so I can easily classify your question. You are welcome to address me as Professor Valle or Dr. Valle.

**Campus Resources**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:
Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

Student Health Center

Student Health Centers can provide health care services for current students. Students may contact Rutgers Student Health to make an appointment:
- Call 973-353-5232
- Visit Blumenthal Hall, Room 104
- Email stuhlth@newark.rutgers.edu

The Rutgers Holiday Policy and Accommodations

Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center

Life can be tough for us for any number of reasons (family, academic, health, financial, romantic, political, this whole global pandemic we are still living through, etc.). Sometimes we are struggling emotionally and psychologically and need someone to talk to. Other times we are dealing with more significant psychological challenges that require a different level of intervention. Either way, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE take advantage of the services at your disposal. There is absolutely NO shame in seeking help. For real. Being a college student can bring about all new emotional challenges or exacerbate existing ones. The RUN Counseling center is staffed by highly qualified mental health professionals who are passionate about providing an array of clinical services to our diverse student body. They are committed to helping students take care of their mental health and working through their challenges while they strive toward emotional and academic success. They offer psychological and psychiatric services, as well as a comprehensive Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program to all enrolled and eligible students. Their services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/.
**Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries**

Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at:

https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

**Students Who are Pregnant**

The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu

**Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment**

Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University’s Title IX Coordinator. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run vpva@rutgers.edu

**Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)**

Room 140, Bradley Hall

(973) 353-5608

https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center

**Writing Center**

The Writing Center at Rutgers-Newark offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers, Newark campus. Tutors can help students: clarify an assignment, generate ideas and writing, review and revise drafts, improve grammar and usage, and strengthen reading and editing skills. Room 126, Conklin Hall (973) 353-5847 nwc@rutgers.edu
Rally in support of the DACA program. Photo by Zach Gibson / Getty Images

Let’s have a great semester!