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, ethnicity and their influence on identity, racial categorization, and interlocking systems of oppression. 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 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;
✦ Understand how racial justice could be imagined and realized, and;
♦ Develop an understanding of basic concepts, theories, and research methods used in the study of race and ethnicity, and;
♦ Communicate effectively about various sociological issues related to race and ethnicity in written, visual and oral forms.

**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* short paper= 20 pts
♦ Final paper proposal= 5 pts
♦ “Nobody in Newark” Final paper = 35 pts
♦ Attendance & participation = 10 points
♦ Extra credit

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 Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check them to assure they are current and accurate. Guidelines for submission of written work are available on Blackboard and must be followed to receive assignment credit.
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/4 (Wk 1)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Go over syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11 (Wk 2)</td>
<td>The Origin of the Idea of Race</td>
<td>R&amp;R (1) 3-30; Roberts (Preface) X-XII, (1)* 3-25</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 1 Quiz; Group 1 Roberts Chap. 1 Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18 (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</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25 (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</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2 (Wk 5)</td>
<td>Racism in the Media: The Spread of Ideology</td>
<td>R&amp;R (4) 103-129; Roberts (4)* 81-103</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 4 Quiz; Group 4 Roberts Chap. 4 Presentation Fatal Invention Paper Topic Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9 (Wk 6)</td>
<td>Skin-Tone Stratification and Colorism</td>
<td>R&amp;R (5) 130-154; Roberts (5)* 104-122</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 5 Quiz; Group 5 Roberts Chap. 5 Presentation; Final Paper Proposal Due</td>
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<td>10/16 (Wk 7)</td>
<td>Educational Inequality</td>
<td>R&amp;R (6) 155-181; Roberts (6)* 129-146</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 6 Quiz; Group 6 Roberts Chap. 6 Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23 (Wk 8)</td>
<td>Income and Labor Market Inequality</td>
<td>R&amp;R (7) 182-210; Roberts (10)* 226-257</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 7 Quiz; Group 7 Roberts Chap. 10 Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30 (Wk 9)</td>
<td>Inequality in Housing and Wealth</td>
<td>R&amp;R (8) 211-234; Roberts (11)* 261-287</td>
<td>R&amp;R Chap. 8 Quiz; Group 8 Roberts Chap. 11 Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6 (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 9 Hill Chap. 1 Presentation; Fatal Invention Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13 (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 10 Hill Chap. 2 Presentation;</td>
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<td>11/20 (Wk 12)</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27 (Wk 13)</td>
<td>Racial Justice in the United States Today</td>
<td>Hill Bargained (3)* 67-92, (4)* 93-122</td>
<td>Group 11 Hill Chap. 3 Presentation; Group 12 Hill Chap. 4 Presentation</td>
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**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 five practices:

1. **Attendance**: Attendance is mandatory. I will be taking attendance. 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. If you want to let me know that you will be absent, you shouldn’t email me. Instead, use Rutgers’ (extremely efficient) Self-Reporting Absences App [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/). You will lose 15 points for your first unexcused absence beyond the first one. This means that if you miss two classes the most points you can earn for the course is 85. Miss 3 classes (21% of the course), the most you can earn is 80. Any student who misses 4 or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course; such students should withdraw from the class. 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.

2. **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. (Note: Matters of academic dishonesty are taken very seriously and will involve severe
repercussions).

*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.”

3. **Submit assignments on time:** Assignments will be due prior to the start of class. Assignments
submitted late will lose 2 points for each day they are late.

4. **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!

5. **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
tables based on internet abuse.

**Communication**

Our primary means of communicating with one another will be
through Blackboard. You must check Blackboard regularly for
announcements, including syllabus changes. There is a Blackboard app that you might want to download
(I cannot attest to the quality of this app.) [http://www.blackboard.com/mobile-learning/blackboard-app.aspx](http://www.blackboard.com/mobile-learning/blackboard-app.aspx)

**You must communicate with me via your Rutgers email account (this has been stressed to faculty during many meetings).** It is the only way that I can guarantee that the emails are coming
from you and discuss your work accordingly. Email is the best way to communicate with me (please use
gmail address listed on p. 1). 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 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 is almost equivalent to calling your home telephone in 2018.

*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 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.

### Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’ disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

For more information please contact the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219, by phone at 973-353-5375 or by email at odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu.

### Campus Resources

**Writing Center**

FYI- 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.

https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter

**The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center**

Life can be tough for us for any number of reasons (family, academic, health, financial, romantic, political, 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. Reach out! Phone: 973-353-5805 http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/contact-us

Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

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. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at run.vpva@rutgers.edu. Learn more about the office here: http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva

Let’s have a great semester!