

RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES

History 21:512:388 – SPRING 2015, Tues: 2:30-5:20

Professor Kornel Chang



This course introduces students to the history of race and ethnicity in the United States. Focusing on the period after 1865, students will examine the social construction of race and ethnicity, with the aim of understanding the complex ways race and ethnicity have operated in American politics and culture. We will look at how race and ethnicity have been defined; how definitions have changed over time; their internal logic and contradictions; and the political, economic, and cultural work they have performed in post-1865 America. We will approach these issues from a comparative perspective, probing the experiences of differently racialized groups through in-depth analysis of primary and secondary sources. Topics include lynching and Jim Crow, immigrant exclusion, sex across the color line and miscegenation laws, racism in popular culture, postwar creation of urban “ghettos” and suburbanization, and the rise of the prison-industrial complex.

Required Texts (Available at New Jersey Books and Campus Bookstore)

- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* (New York: New Press, 2012)

Books are available for purchase at New Jersey Books and the Campus Bookstore. All other assigned readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (Best 3 out of 4 grades)	15%
First Response Paper	15%

In Class Mid-Term Exam	25%
Second Response Paper	15%
Book Review	20%

Late assignments will not be accepted (except in the case of excused absences). Surprise Quizzes will be administered during the beginning of class (No make-up quizzes for lateness or absence)

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences lower your final grade by one letter grade. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Class absence may be excused in case of illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions. All other absences including those due to a job or an interview will NOT be excused. For further detail on university regulations on class attendance see http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/index.html

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy

All written work submitted by students should be their own. Students need to be careful about distinguishing their own ideas and writings from other sources. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from another source without properly citing it. Plagiarism is grounds for automatically failing the course. Further details can be found here <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity>.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every major assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.

Electronic Device Policy

The use of portable electronic devices such as cellphones and tablets are strictly prohibited during class hours. Laptops are also prohibited (you can request an exemption for laptop use but only in the most compelling circumstances will I allow it). Cellphones should be turned off prior to class. Violations will result in a deduction in your participation grade.

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to ensuring the participation of all its students in its programs. Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, requiring assistance and/or accommodation should speak with Disability Services in a timely manner. For more information, see <http://robeson.rutgers.edu/studentlife/disability.html>.

Changes to Syllabus

Professor Chang reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

Internet Resources on Race and Ethnicity

<http://raceandgenomics.ssrc.org/>
<http://www.racesci.org/>
<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/deadlymedicine/>
<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php>
<http://www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm?bhcp=1>
<http://immigrants.harpweek.com/>
<http://www.apsanet.org/~rep/>
<http://nytimes.com/library/national/race/>

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1

January 20 Introduction

Week 2

January 27 What is Race?

- Barbara Fields, “Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America,” New Left Review 181 (May/June 1990): 95-118. **(READ TWO TIMES)**
- *Virginia 1662 Slave Law*
- “Two Questions about Race,” by Alan Goodman and “Straw Men and their Followers: The Return of Biological Race,” by Evelyn Hammond.

Readings can be found on <http://raceandgenomics.ssrc.org>

In-Class Film: Race: Power of an Illusion (Part I)

Week 3

February 3 Native Americans and the “Origins” of Race

- Richard White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 50-93.
- Philip J. Deloria, Playing Indian (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), 10-37.

In-Class Film: Race: Power of an Illusion (Part II)

Week 4

February 10 Abolitionism, Segregation, and Jim Crow

- Walter Johnson, “The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s,” Journal of American History 87 (June 2000): 13-38.

Week 9

March 17 **No Class: Spring Break**

Week 10

March 24 **Performing “Blackness” and Miscegenation**

- Melvin Patrick Ely, The Adventures of Amos ‘N’ Andy (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia), 115-159.
- Peggy Pascoe, “Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of Race in Twentieth-Century America,” *Journal of American History* (1996): 44-69.

Film: The Loving Story

Week 11

March 31 **Racial Liberalism and Cold War Politics**

- Mary Dudziak, Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 79-114.
- Ellen Wu, The Color of Success: The Origins of the Model Minority (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013), 150-180.

Week 12

April 7 **Postwar Ghetto and Suburb Making**

- Kenneth Jackson, Crabgrass Frontiers: The Suburbanization of America (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 190-218e.
- Ta-Nehsi Coates, “The Ghetto is Public Policy,” *The Atlantic*.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/03/the-ghetto-is-public-policy/274147/>

- *The Moynihan Report (1965)*

Film: Racism in America: Small Town 1950s Case Study Documentary Film

Week 13

April 14 **Mexican Immigration and the Making of the “Illegal Alien”**

- Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: The Making of the Illegal Alien in Modern America (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), 127-166.
- Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, 1-100.

Second Response Paper on *Moynihan Report* (1965) Due in Class

Week 14

April 21

The War on Drugs and the Prison-Industrial Complex

- Finish Alexander, The New Jim Crow (New York: New Press, 2012).

Book Review of The New Jim Crow Due in Class

Week 15

April 28

Race in a “Post-Racial” America

- *Obama’s Race Speech* (Philadelphia, 2008)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88478467>