Overview

Racial prejudice, discrimination, and disparities continue to be major problems in America in all aspects of life, including housing, employment, education, health, and criminal justice. In this course students will learn about current racial problems in America and their consequences, causes, and solutions. The focus will be on the four major racial groups in this country: whites, blacks, Hispanics, and Asians. Readings, videos, lectures, and class discussions will be used to increase understanding of racial issues.

Why Study Race

- Our poor education, racially segregated lives, and media have perpetuated racism and a lack of racial understanding
- Important for all of us to understand and work with people different from ourselves
- Racism is all around us and we have an obligation to stop it (e.g., microaggressions, networks lead to all white applicant pools, out-group discrimination)

Bogus Reasons for Not Studying or Discussing Race

- All of our problems are due to class not race
- Our problems would disappear if we stopped focusing on race (be colorblind)
- We are uncomfortable talking about race, so ignore it

Course Objectives

- Increase personal awareness of race
- Expand knowledge of race in the U.S. and in Pittsburgh
- Increase commitment to individual and group action

Ground Rules

- Everyone must participate
- Use “I” statements – don’t try to speak for a whole racial group
- Create a positive class climate
- Be respectful and open; Do not use derogatory language towards others
- Try to speak in a calm rational manner about these sensitive topics
- Ask others to clarify what they said if you don’t fully understand
Required Text

- Joe Feagin, *Racist America*, 3rd edition, 2014 (copies are on reserve in the library)

Grading and Term Paper

Half of the course grade will be based on comments on assignments and half on the term paper. The term paper can be on any race issue in America and should be at least ten pages in length.

Academic standards

All written work for this class must be done individually and must be your own original work. Do not copy paragraphs or sections of your or others’ previous papers, publications, or reports. Show the source when you borrow an idea. Give full citations for referenced work. Submitting work that is not your own will result in a failing grade for the course and possibly disciplinary action by the School’s administrators.

CLASS SCHEDULE

**Mon. Aug. 31  Course Overview; Introductions; Pittsburgh--Most Livable City for Whom?**

- You name and home town/country, when did you first become aware of race, what racial experiences have you had on campus/in your family/in the community, what is your racial identity, how do others view you?
- Pittsburgh is often rated a most livable city: [https://getfitpgh.com/pittsburgh-best-city/](https://getfitpgh.com/pittsburgh-best-city/)
- Most livable city for whom? Video--[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uP-5FjoKvs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uP-5FjoKvs)

**Wed. Sept. 2 Native Americans; The Social Construction of Race**

- View this video on historic trauma among Native Americans and submit comments to rbangs@pitt.edu by 9 am on class day and bring a copy to class
- In class view the PBS film, Race in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
  Discussion question: *What did you learn and find most interesting about slavery, the successful slave rebellion, and social definitions of race?*

**Mon. Sept. 7 No Class – Labor Day**

**Wed. Sept. 9 Systemic Racism**

- Read the Preface and Chapters 1-2 in Feagin, submit comments on each chapter
- Dr. Bangs will lecture on historic changes in racial categories in the U.S., current population by race, slavery, Jim Crow, when affirmative action was white
Mon. Sept. 14  White Racial Frame and Role of Media

- Read Ch. 3 in Feagin and skim http://www.heinz.org/UserFiles/Library/AAMB-MediaReport.pdf, submit comments on each reading

Wed. Sept. 16  Current Racial Bias

- Read Chapter 4 in Feagin and submit comments
- Dr. Bangs will lecture on explicit racial bias and show short videos on color-blind racism and implicit racial bias

Mon. Sept. 21  Racial Oppression Today

- Read and submit comments on: 1) Chapters 5-6 in Feagin,
  2) http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/upshot/the-measuring-sticks-of-racial-bias.html?abt=0002&abg=1&r=1,
  3) http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/opinion/sunday/racial-penalties-in-baltimore-mortgages.html?mabReward=CTM&module=WelcomeBackModal&contentCollection=Opinion&region=FixedCenter&action=click&src=recg&pgtype=article&r=0,
  4) http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/housing-discrimination-today-and-persistence-residential-segregation
- In class view Part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyL5EcAwB9c and Part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOS3BBmUxvs
- Discussion question: How does differential treatment like this affect white and black quality of life and standard of living?

Wed. Sept. 23  White Privileges and Black Burdens

- Read and submit comments on: 1) Ch. 7 in Feagin,
  2) http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/lewisjulie/White%20Privileged%20Unpacking%20the%20Invisible%20Knapsack.pdf
  3) effects of disadvantage on SAT scores, read pages 167-175 in How Increasing College Access Is Increasing Inequality, and What to Do about It
- Dr. Bangs will discuss the education-related effects of racism

Mon. Sept. 28  Different Experiences of College Students by Race

- Read and submit comments on: 1) Ch. 8 in Feagin; 2) Perez lecture on Hispanics http://mediasite.cidde.pitt.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=28d30da833784d93a2131b425870b117; and 3) this video and short readings on Asians http://mediasite.cidde.pitt.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=96e66e080b244dc096642e41d6bf2f5d AND http://www.asian-nation.org/demographics.shtml AND http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/
- In class view the video: What’s Race Got to Do with It?
- Discussion question: Which of the racial issues in the film did you find most important or interesting?
Wed. Sept. 30  Current Racial Disparities in U.S.; The Case for Reparations

- Read and comment on America’s Racial Realities, Chapter 1 in Bangs and Davis, Eds. *Race and Social Problems: Restructuring Inequality* (to be emailed)
- Read and comment on Coates’ article in Atlantic http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/
- In class view Bill Moyers Interview with Mr. Coates http://billmoyers.com/episode/facing-the-truth-the-case-for-reparations/?utm_source=sidebar&utm_medium=banner&utm_content=caseforreparationepisode&utm_campaign=case-for-reparations-episode

Mon. Oct. 5  Other Reports on Race in Pittsburgh

- Read and comment on Pittsburgh’s Racial Demographics 2015 http://www.crsp.pitt.edu/
- Read and comment on: Pittsburgh Promise report http://www.crsp.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Pgh%20Promise%20Report%20April%20201.pdf
- Black-White Health in Allegheny County, Bangs presentation on Oct 2, 2015

Wed. Oct. 7  Ferguson and Other Police Shootings of Unarmed Blacks

Submit your paper topic. Read and comment on these:
- David Harris’ lecture on ”The Collision of Race and Criminal Justice: Lessons from the Aftermath of Ferguson” Video
- David Harris’ article in Politico on Ferguson http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/04/baltimore-riots-police-abuse-117464.html#.VVe_pflVikp
- Rothstein on deep reasons for Ferguson http://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/

Mon. Oct. 12  Anti-Racism

- Read and comment on Ch. 9 in Feagin; Dr. Bangs will lecture on anti-racism actions

Wed. Oct. 14 & Mon Oct. 19 Student Paper Presentations; Final paper due by Oct 19