

HISTORY OF RACE AND RACISM IN SCIENCE

Health, Humanities, and Society 45000

Spring 2022

Dr. Ijeoma Kola, ikola@nd.edu



Course Description

Race is one of the many ways that we categorize other people, and ourselves, as we move through the world today. How have scientists, researchers, and physicians — experts whom we often view as objective — understood, measured, and reproduced race since the 18th century? How has scientific inquiry both justified and perpetrated racism, embedding ideas about racial difference into science itself? And what does the embodiment of race in science do to the way that we experience health? This course explores the scientific construction of race and racism from the 18th century to the present by examining primary and secondary sources in the life sciences, social sciences, and medicine.

Course Objectives

Designed for students interested in the history of science and the production of scientific knowledge or those curious about the origins of scientific racism and racial inequality, this course is also well-suited for students pursuing careers in the health professions. By focusing on historical discourses on the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge of race, students will be able to:

1. Understand how race, racism, and racial inequality have been embedded in American scientific knowledge throughout from the 18th century to the present
2. Outline the various methodologies scientists have used to explain human behavior and functioning using racial ideologies
3. Critically evaluate primary and secondary sources in different scientific fields

Course Schedule & Readings

| TOPIC | DATE | READINGS |
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| Week 1: Introduction | Tues 1/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None |
| | Thurs 1/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fields, Karen E., and Barbara Jeanne Fields. "Introduction." In <i>Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life</i>, 1–24. London ; New York: Verso, 2012. • Fredrickson, George M. "Introduction." In <i>Racism: A Short History</i>, 1–14. Princeton University Press, 2002. • (optional) Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. "Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s." In <i>The Inequality Reader</i>, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2011. |
| Week 2: 18th Century — Formation of Racial Ideologies | Tues 1/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yudell, Michael. "1. A Short History of the Race Concept" In <i>Race and the Genetic Revolution: Science, Myth, and Culture</i> edited by Sheldon Krimsky and Kathleen Sloan, 13-30. New York Chichester, West Sussex: Columbia University Press, 2011. • Hudson, Nicholas. "From "Nation to "Race": The Origin of Racial Classification in Eighteenth-Century Thought." <i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i> 29, no. 3 (1996): 247-64. |
| | Thurs 1/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hogarth, Rana. "Of Black Skin and Biopower: Lessons from the Eighteenth Century." <i>American Quarterly</i> 71, no. 3 (2019): 837–47. • Schiebinger, Londa. "The Anatomy of Difference: Race and Sex in Eighteenth-Century Science." <i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i> 23, no. 4 (1990): 387–405. |
| Week 3: 19th Century — The Measure of Man | Tues 1/25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartwright, Samuel. "Report on the Diseases and Physical Peculiarities of the Negro Race." <i>New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal</i>, 1851, 691–715. • Mouat, F. J. "Notes on M. Bertillon's Discourse on the Anthropometric Measurement of Criminals." <i>The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland</i> 20 (1891): 182-98. • Reading Response Due |
| | Thurs 1/27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gould, Stephen Jay. "American Polygeny and Craniometry before Darwin: Blacks and Indians as Separate, Inferior Species." In <i>The Mismeasure of Man</i>, 1st ed., 62–104. New York: Norton, 1981. |
| Week 4: 19th Century — The Science of Difference | Tues 2/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoffman, Frederick L. "Anthropometry." In <i>Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro</i>, 149–76. New York, 1896. |

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| | Thurs 2/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Du Bois, W.E.B. “Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro. By Frederick L. Hoffman.” <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 9, no. 1: 127–33. • Miller, Kelly. “A Review of Hoffman’s Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro.” Occasional Papers. Washington, D. C.: The American Negro Academy, 1897. • Reading Response Due |
| Week 5: 19th Century — Engendering Race | Tues 2/8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fausto-Sterling, Anne. “Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of ‘Hottentot’ Women in Europe, 1815-17.” In <i>Skin Deep, Spirit Strong: The Black Female Body in American Culture</i>, edited by Kimberly Wallace-Sanders, 66–98. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002. |
| | Thurs 2/10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kapsalis, Terri. “Mastering the Female Pelvis: Race and the Tools of Reproduction.” In <i>Public Privates: Performing Gynecology from Both Ends of the Speculum</i>, 31–60. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997. |
| Week 6: 20th Century — Refashioning Race in the New Century | Tues 2/15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocking, George W. “The Turn-of-the-Century Concept of Race.” <i>Modernism/Modernity</i> 1, no. 1 (1994): 4–16. • Baker, Lee. “Rethinking Race at the Turn of the Century: W. E. B. Du Bois and Franz Boas.” In <i>From Savage to Negro: Anthropology and the Construction of Race, 1896-1954</i>. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998, pp. 99-126. ISBN: 9780520211674. |
| | Thurs 2/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smith, S. (2008). “Mustard Gas and American Race-Based Human Experimentation in World War II”. <i>The J. of Law, Medicine & Ethics</i> 36(3):517-521. • Barkan, Elazar. "Mobilizing Scientists against Nazi Racism, 1933-1939." In <i>Bones, Bodies, Behavior</i>. Edited by George Stocking. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988, pp. 180-205. ISBN: 9780299112509. |
| Week 7: 20th Century — Emergence of Institutional Antiracism | Tues 2/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Statement on Race, Paris, July 1950", in: UNESCO (ed.), <i>Four statements on race, Paris 1969</i> • UNESCO 1950. "Statement on Race." In <i>Statement on Race</i>. Edited by Ashley Montagu. London: Oxford University Press, 1972, pp. 7-13. ISBN: 9780195015300. |
| | Thurs 2/24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brattain, Michelle: “Race, Racism, and Antiracism: UNESCO and the Politics of Presenting Science to the Postwar Public”, in: <i>American Historical Review</i> 112 (2007) Nr. 5, 1386–1413. • Hazard Jr., Anthony Q. “A Racialized Deconstruction? Ashley Montagu and the 1950 UNESCO Statement on Race.” <i>Transforming</i> |

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| | | <p><i>Anthropology</i> 19, no. 2 (2011): 174–86.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Project Proposal Due |
| Week 8: 20th Century — Race and Racism in the Global South | Tues 3/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gil-Riaño, Sebastián: “Relocating Anti-Racist Science: The 1950 UNESCO Statement on Race and Economic Development in the Global South”, in: <i>British Journal for the History of Science</i> 51 (2018) 2, 281–303. |
| | Thurs 3/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anderson, Warwick. “Racial Conceptions in the Global South.” <i>Isis</i> 105, no. 4 (December 1, 2014): 782–92. ● Rich, Paul. “Race, Science, and the Legitimization of White Supremacy in South Africa, 1902-1940.” <i>The International Journal of African Historical Studies</i> 23, no. 4 (1990): 665–86. |
| Week 9: | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring Break — No Classes |
| Week 10: The Making of Whiteness | Tues 3/15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jacobson, Matthew Frye. "Race and American Nativism. From Anglo-Saxons and Others, 1840-1924." In <i>Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race</i>. Cambridge, UK: Harvard University Press, 1998, pp. 68-90. |
| | Thurs 3/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jacobson, Matthew Frye. "Becoming Caucasian, 1924-1965 & Naturalization and the Courts." In <i>Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race</i>. Cambridge, UK: Harvard University Press, 1998, pp. 91-109, and 223-240. |
| Week 11: Ethnicity and the Latino Mortality Paradox | Tues 3/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung. “Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race, 1790 to 1990, and by Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, For The United States, Regions, Divisions, and States.” Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau Population Division, September 2002. Pages 1-9 (skim tables) ● Conzen, Kathleen Neils, et al. “The Invention of Ethnicity: A Perspective from the U.S.A.” <i>Journal of American Ethnic History</i>, vol. 12, no. 1, 1992, pp. 3–41. |
| | Thurs 3/24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abraído-Lanza, A F, B P Dohrenwend, D S Ng-Mak, and J B Turner. “The Latino Mortality Paradox: A Test of the ‘Salmon Bias’ and Healthy Migrant Hypotheses.” <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 89, no. 10 (October 1, 1999): 1543–48. ● Smith, David P., and Benjamin S. Bradshaw. “Rethinking the Hispanic Paradox: Death Rates and Life Expectancy for US Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic Populations.” <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 96, no. 9 (September 1, 2006): 1686–92. |

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| Week 12: From Yellow Peril to the Model Minority | Tues 3/29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keevak, Michael. "Introduction: No Longer White." In <i>Becoming Yellow: A Short History of Racial Thinking</i>, 1–22. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011. • Shah, Nayan. "Public Health and the Mapping of Chinatown." In <i>Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown</i>, 17–44. University of California Press, 2001. |
| | Thurs 3/31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kawai, Yuko. "Stereotyping Asian Americans: The Dialectic of the Model Minority and the Yellow Peril." <i>Howard Journal of Communications</i> 16, no. 2 (April 2005): 109–30. |
| Week 13: Re-Biologization of the Black Body | Tues 4/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wailoo, Keith. "Detecting 'Negro' Blood: Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle-Cell Anemia." In <i>Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century America</i>, 134–61. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. |
| | Thurs 4/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracie Canada and Chelsey R. Carter. "The NFL's Racist 'Race Norming' Is an Afterlife of Slavery." <i>Scientific American</i>, July 8, 2021. • Miller, Patrick B. "The Anatomy of Scientific Racism: Racialist Responses to Black Athletic Achievement." <i>Journal of Sport History</i> 25, no. 1 (1998): 119–51. • Hoberman, John M. "Theories of Racial Athletic Aptitude." In <i>Darwin's Athletes: How Sport Has Damaged Black America and Preserved the Myth of Race</i>, 187–207. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. |
| Week 14: The Genetics of Race | Tues 4/12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phelan, Jo C., Bruce G. Link, and Naumi M. Feldman. "The Genomic Revolution and Beliefs about Essential Racial Differences: A Backdoor to Eugenics?" <i>American Sociological Review</i> 78, no. 2 (April 1, 2013): 167–91. |
| | Thurs 4/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troy Duster. "Behavioral Genetics and Explanations of the Link Between Crime, Violence, and Race." In <i>Wrestling with Behavioral Genetics: Science, Ethics, and Public Conversation</i>, edited by Erik Parens, Audrey R. Chapman, and Nancy Press, 160–75. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. • Montoya, Michael J. "Bioethnic Conscriptation: Genes, Race, and Mexicana/o Ethnicity in Diabetes Research." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 22, no. 1 (2007): 94–128. • Hudson, J. Blaine. "Scientific Racism: The Politics of Tests, Race and Genetics." <i>The Black Scholar</i> 25, no. 1 (December 1995): 3–10. • <i>Undergraduates to read one assigned; grad students to read all</i> |

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| Week 15: The Place of Race in Science | Tues 4/19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gravlee, Clarence C. “How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality.” <i>American Journal of Physical Anthropology</i> 139, no. 1 (2009): 47–57. ● Fausto-Sterling, Anne. “Refashioning Race: DNA and the Politics of Health Care.” <i>Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies</i> 15, no. 3 (2004): 1–37. |
| | Thurs 4/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Livingstone, Frank B., and Theodosius Dobzhansky. “On the Non-Existence of Human Races.” <i>Current Anthropology</i> 3, no. 3 (1962): 279–81. ● Burchard, Esteban González, Elad Ziv, Natasha Coyle, Scarlett Lin Gomez, Hua Tang, Andrew J. Karter, Joanna L. Mountain, Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Dean Sheppard, and Neil Risch. “The Importance of Race and Ethnic Background in Biomedical Research and Clinical Practice.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> 348, no. 12 (March 20, 2003): 1170–75. ● Braun, Lundy, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Duana Fullwiley, Evelyn M. Hammonds, Alondra Nelson, William Quivers, Susan M. Reverby, and Alexandra E. Shields. “Racial Categories in Medical Practice: How Useful Are They?” <i>PLOS Medicine</i> 4, no. 9 (September 25, 2007): e271. |