

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, FALL 2003
HISTORY OF RACE
UAFR212, UHST212 (cross-listed)
MWTh 1:35 – 2:40, 320 Shillman

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This course addresses the history and nature of race, racial categorization, and racial discrimination. It addresses biological, social, and cultural aspects of race. The course emphasizes that race and racism have been global phenomena, and that the rise and decline of racial discrimination have had remarkably similar histories in various parts of the world.

Exams and Grades:

The grade for this course depends entirely upon the Midterm Exam (30%) and the Final Exam (70%). These essay exams will be based on lectures and readings for the course. The Midterm Exam will address the period up to about 1850; the Final Exam addresses the full length of the course, but with emphasis on the period from 1850 to the present.

Required Texts:

- L. Cavalli-Sforza, *Genes, Peoples, and Languages* (NU bookstore)
- G. Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism* (NU bookstore)
- N. MacMaster, *Racism in Europe* (NU bookstore)
- I. Sundiata (article to be distributed in class)

Optional Readings:

Handouts and website citations will be provided from time to time

Lectures and Discussions

- Most classes will be lecture presentations by the instructor. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lectures, and the last 5-10 minutes of each lecture session will be open to questions and discussion.
- Seven class sessions have been set aside for discussion – questions to the instructor and discussion among students on the specifics of course material and on broader concerns in the history and interpretation of race.

Classroom demeanor

- While attendance is not taken in this class, students are urged to arrive at the beginning of the hour.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off for the duration of each class period. Any person whose phone or pager rings during class must leave class for the remainder of that day.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. September 10-11.

- Sept. 10. Lecture 1. Introduction and overview
- Sept. 11. Lecture 2. Contending views of race

Week 2.

- Sept. 15. Lecture 3. Biological basis of race
- Sept. 17. Lecture 4. Biological basis of race: purity and mixing
- Sept. 18. Discussion.
- Reading: Cavalli-Sforza, *Genes, Peoples, and Languages*, pp. viii – 91.

Week 3.

- Sept. 22. Lecture 5. Race and society
- Sept. 24. Lecture 6. Impressions of difference in ancient times
- Sept. 25. Discussion.
- Reading: Cavalli-Sforza, *Genes, Peoples, and Languages*, pp. 92 – 172.

Week 4.

- Sept 29. Lecture 7. Impressions of difference in medieval times
- Oct. 1. Lecture 8. Voyages and encounters of the 15th century
- Oct. 2. Optional group meetings.
- Reading: Cavalli-Sforza, *Genes, Peoples, and Languages*, pp. 173 – 207.
Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, pp. 1 – 13.

Week 5.

- Oct. 6. Lecture 9. Hierarchy and rationalization
- Oct. 8. Lecture 10. Mixed-race families and race
- Oct. 9. Discussion
- Reading: Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, pp. 15-47

Week 6.

- Oct. 13. No class.
- Oct. 15. Lecture 11. The rise of slavery and race
- Oct. 16. Optional group meetings
- Reading: Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, pp. 49 – 63.

Week 7.

- Oct. 20. Lecture 12. Enlightenment and categorization
- Oct. 22. Lecture 13. Anti-slavery
- Oct. 23. Discussion
- Reading: Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, 64-95

Week 8.

- Oct. 27. MIDTERM EXAM
- Oct. 29. Lecture 14. Scientific racism
- Oct. 30. Lecture 15. Emancipation and expanded racism
- Reading: Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, 97 – 138, 151 – 170.

Week 9.

- Nov. 3. Lecture 16. Civilization and hierarchy
- Nov. 5. Lecture 17. Residential segregation.
- Nov. 6. Discussion
- Reading: MacMaster, *Racism in Europe*

Week 10.

- Nov. 10. Lecture 18. Intellectual critique of racism
- Nov. 12. Lecture 19. Anti-Semitism
- Nov. 13. Lecture 20. World War II and the Holocaust
- Reading: MacMaster, *Racism in Europe*

Week 11.

- Nov. 17. Lecture 21. The U.S. during and after World War II
- Nov. 19. Lecture 22. Decolonization
- Nov. 20. Discussion
- Reading: MacMaster, *Racism in Europe*

Week 12.

- Nov. 24. Lecture 23. Civil rights
- Nov. 26. No class
- Nov. 27. No class

Week 13.

- Dec. 1. Lecture 24. Affirmative action
- Dec. 3. Lecture 25. Hispanidad : Prof. Ibrahim Sundiata, Brandeis Univ.
- Dec. 4. Discussion
- Reading: Sundiata (article on Puerto Rico)

Week 14.

- Dec. 8. Lecture 26. Multiculturalism
- Dec. 10. Lecture 27. Visions of difference and equality for the future
- Dec. 11. Discussion.
- Reading: Fredrickson, *Short History of Racism*, pp. 139 – 150.

Week 15.

FINAL EXAM