Comprehensive Examination
in
Race and Ethnic Relations

DAY #1 --

Choose 1 of 2 (approx. time: 2 hrs):

Discuss the patterns and trends in residential segregation by race/ethnicity over the past three decades in the US. What are the determinants and consequences of these trends? What are their implications for the sociology of race/ethnicity? Try to be as specific as possible regarding the work of particular researchers, the findings for particular groups, etc.

Since the heyday of the civil rights movement, one of the "master trends" in the study of white racial attitudes has been the (apparently widening) gap between (a) support for "principles" of racial equality and (b) support for policies ostensibly designed to implement these principles. Outline the key explanations for this "principle-implementation gap" and evaluate the evidence for each. Try to be specific about the major perspectives, works of particular scholars, etc. What are the implications of this gap and the leading explanations for the future of race/ethnic relations in the US?

Choose 1 of 2 (approx. time: 2 hrs):

Discuss the implications of post-World War II immigration to the US for the racial/ethnic composition of the population. More generally, discuss the implications of contemporary immigration patterns for food, concepts, and theories in the sociology of race/ethnicity. Do you think that recent immigration trends have changed the ways in which sociologists think about race/ethnic relations, and if so, how?

Discuss the major patterns and variations in self-employment by race/ethnicity. In general, what factors and theoretical perspectives have been utilized to account for these race/ethnic variations? Identify specific researchers and their work wherever possible in this discussion. In particular, how have researchers explained the relatively low levels of entrepreneurship and self-employment among contemporary African Americans? Finally, discuss the significance of this topic for the sociological study of race/ethnicity.