Day 2: Social Organization and Racial Inequality

Choose TWO of the following three questions

1. Compare and contrast some of the major theoretical views on racial stratification and inequality, including (for example) the perspectives of Gunnar Myrdal, Per Van den Berghe, Oliver C. Cox, Donald Noel, Edna Bonacich, Robert Blauner, and William J. Wilson. In particular, what roles do economic competition and racial discrimination play in each of the theories and, in particular, what is the relative weight given to each of these dimensions in different historical periods.

2. Describe what is meant by the declining significance of race. What are the major ideas associated with this view? What evidence supports it and what critiques have been raised against it? What are the major studies in this literature?

3. Poverty rates vary across racial/ethnic groups. Discuss these patterns and describe their sociological sources.