

ANTHROPOLOGY 388
RACE AND SCIENCE
FALL 2010

COURSE INFORMATION: Unique #30275
Tuesdays 9am-12pm, EPS 1.130ka

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Deborah Bolnick
E-mail: deborah.bolnick@mail.utexas.edu
Phone: (512) 471-7532
Office Hours: EPS 1.106, TTh 3:30-4:30 pm *or by appointment*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the scientific study of race. We will trace the history of racial science and scientific racism, and we will explore the ways that race is constructed and understood in anthropology, biology, psychology, medicine, and forensics. We will also evaluate both the nature and significance of human biological diversity. This approach will make it possible for us to understand why some recent scientific research reifies race as genetic, and it will help us develop effective strategies for discussing and conveying the complex nature of race.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Seminar Coordination (20%).** Each student will co-organize and lead two classes over the course of the semester. The student leaders are expected to (a) briefly present the core ideas found in the readings (PowerPoint slides or handouts may be prepared if you think they would be helpful), and (b) prepare a set of topics, questions, and other relevant classroom activities to help structure the class period and guide our discussion. You should consult with Dr. Bolnick in office hours or by email the week before you are scheduled to help lead class.
- 2. Class Participation (20%).** Each student is expected to (a) complete all assigned readings before class, (b) bring questions and comments to class, and (c) participate fully in all discussions.
- 3. Written Commentaries (10%).** Five 1 page (double-spaced) commentaries on the week's readings are due in class over the course of the semester. You may choose which weeks you will submit commentaries, *provided that they are weeks when you are not one of the seminar leaders*. This assignment is intended to facilitate careful, critical thought about the topic before class. Your commentaries may focus on one or several of the readings. In your commentary, you may raise questions or concerns, discuss a point that seems particularly important, synthesize material from different sources, suggest additional research that is needed to resolve an issue, etc. Your commentary should not simply be a summary of the main points presented in the readings.
- 4. Essays (45%).** Four essays are due over the course of the semester. The first two essays (10% each) will be 7-10 pages long (double-spaced) and on topics that I distribute two weeks before the due date. These essays will focus on material covered in the readings and in class; outside sources are not required. The third essay (15%) will be 8-10 pages long (double-spaced) on a relevant topic of your choice and in the format of a NSF research grant proposal (guidelines distributed later in the semester). Before writing the third essay, you will submit a 2 page summary of your topic and research plans (5%). The fourth essay (5%) will be a 2 page (double-spaced) position statement regarding your views about race at the end of the class.
- 5. Presentation (5%).** Each student will give a 10-minute presentation on November 30 on the topic of their third essay (i.e. their research grant proposal).

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. *Revisiting Race in a Genomic Age*. 2008. Barbara A. Koenig, Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, and Sarah S. Richardson, editors. Rutgers University Press.
2. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. 2010. Rebecca Skloot. Crown Publishing Group.
3. A packet of other required readings will be available at Abel's Copies (University Towers, 715D West 23rd Street, 472-5353).

COURSE WEBSITE:

Class information, handouts, assignments, grades, and a discussion forum will be available through the course website on Blackboard (<http://www.courses.utexas.edu>). Course updates will also be sent to your university e-mail account. Please check both regularly.

GRADING POLICIES:

If an assignment is turned in late, the assignment grade will be lowered by 10% for each day that the assignment is late. If a serious issue (i.e. illness, family death, etc.) arises that may prevent you from attending class or turning in an assignment on time, contact me by e-mail or telephone *as soon as possible*.

Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%). Plus/minus grades will be assigned.

Re-grading Policy: If you believe that an assignment has been graded incorrectly, submit a written request for a re-grade within one week of when the graded assignment was returned. The written request should include an explanation of your position and be attached to the graded assignment.

Plagiarism Policy: If you plagiarize, the university guidelines for disciplinary action will be followed. Any plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and will result in failure of this course. For more information, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs> (especially the sections on *Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Discipline Procedures*).

Accommodations: I encourage students with disabilities to meet with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss any needs. Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) may arrange accommodations with Services for Students with Disabilities, located in the Student Services Building (see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd> or call 471-6259 or TTY 471-4641 for more information).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND DUE DATES:

August 31	Introduction
September 7	The History of Racial Science and Scientific Racism
September 14	Race and Science after World War II
September 21	Human Biodiversity
September 28	Human Population Genetic Structure <i>Essay 1 Due</i>
October 5	Genetic Ancestry, Identity, and Group Membership
October 12	Diaspora Studies
October 19	Race, Sex, and Medicine
October 26	Race, Medicine, and Pharmacogenomics <i>Essay 2 Due</i>
November 2	Forensic Anthropology
November 9	Race and Intelligence <i>Essay 3 Proposal Due</i>
November 16	Athletics and Racial Biology
November 23	Race and Genetics in Public Discourse <i>Essay 3 Due</i>
November 30	Anthropological Perspectives on Race in the 21 st Century <i>Essay 4 Due; Presentations</i>