

University of Texas at Austin, Sociology Department

Race and Ethnicity Area Comprehensive (Comps) Exams 2014-2015

Format

- In-Class
- Timed (four hours)
- Without notes

General Examination Organization

- Prerequisite course must be taken to qualify to take Race and Ethnicity (R&E) Area comps: SOC 395L CRITICAL THEORIES OF RACE AND RACISM
- The comprehensive examinations (comps) committee will consist of 3-4 faculty who will oversee both Day One and Day Two exams
- To get a “pass with distinction” all answers across both days will have to be considered excellent/grade “A” answers
- Students will have one chance to re-take the exam. If the second exam results in a fail grade then the student will be deemed to have failed their R&E Area comps and no subsequent attempts will be allowed
- Day One: Two questions to be answered from a list of six to eight

Specialization Examination Organization

- Day Two: Two questions to be answered from a list of six to eight

Reading

- The Area Leader will prepare a core reading list for Day One
- Day One: List will be a set of key race and ethnicity texts, students will answer questions related to core conceptual debates
- Day Two: Initial list constructed by student based on relevant specialist area key texts. The final list for Day Two will be constructed after consultation of student with examination committee chair and other committee members about additions/subtractions to initial list

Supplemental Materials

- Repositories of all 1) submitted questions, 2) examinations, and 3) reading list will be created
- These repositories will be stored on a special folder on the Department of Sociology Blackboard

R&E Area Comprehensive Exams 2013-14: Day One Core Areas and Reading List

Students should consider the following when reading the set texts below*: (1) How does the text fit within the general *oeuvre* of the author? (2) What are the major critiques of the book? (3) What has been the contribution of the text (and, by extension, the author) to the sociology of race and ethnicity? While students should focus their Day One reading on these texts, they should also be able to locate each text within a broader sociological universe. Students should organize their readings with the seven areas in mind (**note**, these are guiding questions meant to aid reading and comprehension and should not be understood as the actual questions that will appear on the exam although the exam questions will be broadly related to these):

1. **The ontology of race and racism** – What is race? To what extent is the idea of race a product of racism? Is racism natural? What are the implications for sociologists in using the category of race in their work? How do social scientists measure racism? What are the key epistemological debates around studying race?
2. **Race/ethnicity** – What is the relationship of race to ethnicity? How is ethnicity created, mobilized and reproduced? To what extent are race and ethnicity interchangeable as concepts? How have different disciplines, notably anthropology and sociology, understood and operationalized these terms in their work?
3. **Social institutions** – How does race affect social institutions? How do institutions challenge or reduce racism? How do political and legal questions connected to “diversity” and “affirmative action” impact social institutions? To what extent is race and ethnic identification declining as a significant aspect of social organization?
4. **Colonialism/modernity** – To what extent is modernity racialized? What is the relationship between colonialism and race? Is modernity specifically western, are there non-western alternatives? Should racial formation be understood in national or global terms? How does Eurocentrism shape knowledge production?
5. **Intersectionality** – Can race be thought of as an autonomous area of social life? Is race a foundational or epiphenomenal feature of modern society and social organization? How does race intersect with other key social identities and inequalities? What defines an intersectional approach to studying race?
6. **Immigration and the State** – What role does the State play in managing, measuring and producing racial categories? Is the (western liberal) State inherently racial? How have varied histories of migration framed discussions of race? What are the key arguments around assimilation and integration and how have these terms been critiqued? To what extent is “race relations” a useful framework through which to think about questions related to migration, ethnic mobilization, national citizenship and inter-group relations?
7. **Culture and Identity** – How is identity (and identification) understood within the broader race and ethnicity literatures? How does culture mediate race? How, and in what ways, does culture offer a site of resistance to dominant ideologies of race? To what extent do cultural practices/identities reproduce racism?

**Note: for texts not originally published in English, use the latest translations or the original version where language skills permit. For contemporary texts that have been revised, use the more recent version.*

- Ahmed, S. (2012) *On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life* (Duke University Press).
- Alexander, J. (2005) *Pedagogies of Crossing: Mediations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, and the Sacred* (Duke University Press).
- Anderson, E. (1990) *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community* (University of Chicago).
- Anzaldúa, G. (1999) *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (Aunt Lute Books).
- Balibar, E. and Wallerstein, I. (1991) *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities* (Verso).
- Banton, M. (1998, 2nd ed.) *Racial Theories* (Cambridge University Press).
- Bauman, Z. (1989[2000]) *Modernity and the Holocaust* (Polity Press).
- Bhambra, G. (2009) *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination* (Palgrave).
- Blaut, J., M. (1993) *The Colonizer's Model of the World: Geographical Diffusionism and Eurocentric History* (The Guilford Press).
- Bonilla-Silva, E. (2013, 4th ed.) *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America* (Rowman and Littlefield).
- Brubaker, T. (2004) *Ethnicity Without Groups* (Harvard University Press).
- Collins, P. (1990[2000, 2nd ed.]) *Black Feminist Thought* (Routledge).
- Davis, A. (1983) *Women, Race and Class* (Vintage).
- Du Bois, W.E.B. (1903[1990]) *The Souls of Black Folk* (Vintage Books).
- Duneier, M. (1992) *Slim's Table: Race, Respectability and Masculinity* (Chicago University Press).
- Elam, M. (2011) *The Souls of Mixed Folk: Race, Politics, and Aesthetics in the New Millennium* (Stanford).
- Fanon, F. (1952[2008]) *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove Press).
- Feagin, J. (2013, 2nd ed.) *The White Racial Frame Centuries of Racial Framing and Counter-Framing* (Routledge).
- Ferguson, R. (2004) *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (University of Minnesota Press).
- Frankenberg, R. (1993) *White Women, Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness* (Routledge).
- Gilroy, P. (1993) *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (Verso).
- Goldberg, D. (2002) *The Racial State* (Wiley-Blackwell).
- Glenn, E. (2004) *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor* (Harvard).
- Hall, S. (1980) "Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance," pp. 305-345, in *Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism* (UNESCO).
- Hartman, S. (1997) *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery and Self-making in Nineteenth Century America* (Oxford University Press).
- Lipsitz, G. (1998) *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics* (Temple University Press).
- Lowe, L. (1996) *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* (Duke University Press).

- Marx, A. (1998) *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of South Africa, the United States, and Brazil* (Cambridge University Press).
- Massey, D. and Denton, N. (1993) *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass* (Harvard University Press).
- McClintock, A. (1995) *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (Routledge).
- Mignolo, W. (2011) *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options* (Duke).
- Miles, R. (1993) *Racism After "Race Relations"* (Routledge).
- Mills, C. (1997) *The Racial Contract* (Cornell University Press).
- Mohanty, C. (2003) *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Duke University).
- Montagu, A. (1997, 6th ed) "Chapter 1: The Origin of the Concept of Race", in *Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race* (Altamira Press).
- Ngai, M. (2005) *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton University).
- Omi, M. and Winant, H. (2014, 3rd ed.) *Racial Formation in the United States* (Routledge).
- Patterson, O. (1998) *Rituals of Blood: The Consequences of Slavery in Two American Centuries* (Basic Civitas).
- Puwar, N. (2004) *Space Invaders: Race, Gender and Bodies Out of Place* (Berg).
- Roediger, D. (2010) *How Race Survived US History: From Settlement and Slavery to the Obama Phenomenon* (Verso).
- Said, E. (1978 [2003]) *Orientalism* (Penguin Books).
- Smith, A. (2005) *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* (South End Press).
- Steinberg, S. (2007) *Race Relations: A Critique* (Stanford University Press).
- Taylor, P. (2013, 2nd ed.) *Race: A Philosophical Introduction* (Polity Press).
- Ware, V. (1992) *Beyond the Pale: White Women, Racism and History* (Verso).
- Waters, M. (1990) *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America* (University of California Press).
- Williams, E. (1944[1994]) *Capitalism and Slavery* (University of North Carolina Press).
- Wilson, W. J. (1978[2012], 3rd ed.) *The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions* (University of Chicago Press).
- Wimmer, A. (2013) *Ethnic Boundary Making: Institutions, Power, Networks* (Oxford University Press).
- Young, R. (1995) *Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory, Culture and Race* (Routledge).
- Zuberi, T. and Bonilla-Silva, E. (eds.) (2008) "Chapter 1: Toward a Definition of White Logic and White Methods" and "Chapter 20: Conclusion: Telling the Real tale of the Hunt", in *White Logic, White Methods: Racism and Methodology* (Rowan and Littlefield).