DESCRIPTION: What theoretical approaches are available to ethnographers for making sense of race and inequality? This class puts Critical Race Theory in conversation with foundational anthropological theories of race and ethnicity. Students in this course will explore the usefulness of contemporary legal theory, structuralism, pragmatism, Marxian analysis, and interpretivism for understanding and writing about race and difference.

GRADING
Precis: Students are asked to write weekly (1,500 word max) précis on the readings. The précis should not be a book report but rather an analysis of something that strikes you as you read across texts. Be daring.

Final Paper: Students will also be graded on a final paper (maximum 4,000 words including footnotes). Please meet with the professor during office hours for paper topic approval. Paper due Dean’s Date.

Precis: 35%
Paper: 35%
Participation and Attendance: 30%

BOOKS


Critical Race Theory, third addition (optional), editors Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, New York University Press, 2017. The articles in week 1 are abbreviated in this volume. The links below are to the unabridged versions of these articles.)

READINGS:

Week 1: What is Critical Race Theory?
Critical Race Theory, third addition, editors Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, New York University Press, 2017. (Optional Purchase)


Week 2: Challenge to Critical Race Theory in light of earlier debates among African Americans


Debates among African Americans:

Strategies for Change
• Ida B. Wells, 1892. “Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases.”
• Henry McNeal Turner, 1895. “Response to the Atlanta Exposition Address.”

Separation vs. Integration
• Marcus Garvey, 1924, “W.E.B. Du Bois as a Hater of Dark People.”
• Marcus Garvey, 1924. “Marcus Garvey: A Lunatic or a Traitor?”
• Zora Neal Hurston, 1925. “The Emporer Effaces Himself.”
• Wilfred Adolphus Domingo, 1919. “What Are We, Negroes or Colored People?”

**Week 3: Anthropology’s contributions to Critical Race Theory**

Race is not biological


Race, political affect, and subjectivity


Culture of poverty


**Week 4: Anthropology’s contributions to Critical Race Theory (Continued)**

Race and ethnicity


Race and the new materialism

**Week 5: Structuralism and pragmatism as theoretical interventions**


Charles Pierce, “Lessons from the History of Science.”
https://www.textlog.de/4223.html

https://archive.org/details/racehistory00levi


**Week 6: Epistemic Decolonization and Critical Race Theory**
