

Sociology 560. Racial and Ethnic Classification and Identity
Fall 2021
Mondays, 1:30-4:30

Paul Starr

This seminar will explore two closely related subjects: the rules of racial and ethnic classification in both social interaction and for such purposes as official statistics (e.g., censuses); and the formation of racial and ethnic identities and groups. We begin with controversies over the future course of racial and ethnic change in the U.S. population and politics. Then we turn to some theoretical perspectives and comparative-historical cases to illuminate the general issues of racial and ethnic classification and identity. The three following classes deal with ethnoracial formation in the U.S.: whiteness; Native Americans and Blacks; and renewed immigration and new panethnicities (e.g., Hispanic/Latino/Latinx; Asian American; people of color; BIPOC). The final class will be reserved for the presentation of new research.

Since the Princeton Sociology Department this year has no first-year class, I expect the seminar to be small, and welcome students from other departments.

Readings: All readings will be available electronically through Canvas and the Princeton University library's electronic resources. Students may wish to buy the books with longer assignments, though no books are being ordered.

Requirements: Graduate students who take this as a half-semester, mini-seminar will be asked to write three, 750-word critical responses to assigned or optional readings, to be presented orally and then assembled together after the last session, possibly with general takeaways. Students who wish to take the course for full-semester credit should arrange to do a separate, albeit short (2,500-word) research paper.

Schedule: There are two unusual aspects to the schedule of classes, neither of which should be a major problem. This is a half-semester class, scheduled for Monday afternoons. But because of Labor Day, the first class does not take place until September 13, and there are only five classes before the fall break the week of October 18. Consequently, the sixth class will be on the Monday after the break, October 25.

The second unusual aspect of the class is that on two Mondays—September 20 and October 25—we will need to split the class into two parts. The first half will occur as usual, in person, from 1:30 to 3 on those days. But because Sociology faculty meetings occur on those days at 3 p.m., we will need to find a different time for the second half, which may be on Zoom to accommodate everyone. One possibility is that the second half will run from 4:30 to 6 on the same day, if that works for all the seminar's participants.

Preliminary Reading List

Week 1. September 13. Introduction: the current debate about the changing racial order

William H. Frey, "[The nation is diversifying even faster than expected, according to new census data](#)," Brookings Institution, July 1, 2021.

Richard Alba, [The Great Demographic Illusion: Majority, Minority, and the Expanding American Mainstream](#). (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020), Chs. 1-5.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, "From Bi-Racial to Tri-Racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (2004), 27 (6): 931–950.

Efrén Pérez, *Diversity's Child: People of Color and the Politics of Identity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [August] 2021), Introduction.

Week 2. September 20 [Split class]. Theoretical and comparative perspectives

Part 1. Theoretical perspectives

Mara Loveman, "Is 'Race' Essential?" *American Sociological Review* (1997) 64: 891–98.

Rogers Brubaker, "Ethnicity Without Groups." *European Journal of Sociology* (2002) 43 (2): 163-189.

Andreas Wimmer, "The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* (2008) 113: 970–1022.

Part 2. Comparative studies (pick one)

Wendy Roth, *Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race*. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2012), Ch. 1. "How Immigration Changes Concepts of Race," 1-31.

Deborah Posel, "Race as Common Sense: Racial Classification in Twentieth Century South Africa." *African Studies Review* (2001) 44(2): 87-113.

Week 3. September 27. Ethnoracial formation in the United States (1): Whiteness

Ian Haney Lopez, *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race*. (New York: New York University Press, 1996), xiii-xiv (“A Note on Whiteness”), 1-47 (Chs. 1-2).

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003), Introduction (1-12), Introduction to Political History of Whiteness (13-14), Ch. 2 (40-90).

Mary C. Waters, *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1990). 1-36, 147-69.

Ashley Jardina, *White Identity Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), Ch. 3 (esp. 50-69), Ch. 4 (91-117).

Week 4. October 4. Ethnoracial formation in the U.S. (2): Native Americans and Blacks

Pew Research Center, “[What the Census Calls Us: A Historical Timeline](#)”

Melissa Nobles, *Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics*, Ch. 2.

Eva Marie Garrouette, *Real Indians: Identity and the Survival of Native America* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2003), Chs. 1-4.

F. James Davis, *Who Is Black? One Nation’s Definition* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State Press: 1991). Chs. 1-4.

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*, 3rd ed. (New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 2014). Introduction, Ch. 4.

Week 5. October 11. Ethnoracial formation in the U.S. (3): Renewed immigration, assimilation, and new panethnicities

Tomás R. Jiménez, *Replenished Ethnicity: Mexican Americans, Immigration, and Identity*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010). Chapters to be assigned.

Appiah, Antony. 2021. “[My Child’s Egg Donor is Latin American. Does That Make Him Latino?](#)” *New York Times*, April 6.

Alba, [The Great Demographic Illusion: Majority, Minority, and the Expanding American Mainstream](#), Chs. 6-7.

Ran Abramitzky et al., “[Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the US over Two Centuries](#),” NBER Working Paper 26408 (October 2019).

Dina G. Okamoto and G. Cristina Mora, "Panethnicity." *Annual Review of Sociology* (2014) 40: 219–239.

Cases (Pick One)

G. Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014), Ch. 1.

Dina G. Okamoto, *Redefining Race: Asian American Panethnicity and Shifting Ethnic Boundaries* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation), chapters to be assigned.

Efrén Pérez, *Diversity's Child: People of Color and the Politics of Identity*, Chs. 1-3.

Andrew Shryock, "The Moral Analogies of Race: Arab American Identity, Color Politics, and the Limits of Racialized Citizenship," in Amaney Jamal and Nadine Naber, eds., *Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2008), 81-113.

Week 6. October 25 [Split class]. Final class: New Research