



Racial Inequality in the United States

Lecture

“Race is socially constructed through the use of symbols.” This idea would be supported by:

- a) the genomic argument
- b) the social constructivist perspective

Shiao, Bode, Beyer and Selvig (2012)
use what type of research methods?

- a) Quantitative
- b) Qualitative

Shiao, Bode, Beyer and Selvig (2012) conclude that there is a “bounded nature” associated with racial categorization.

- a) True
- b) False

Racial discrimination is _____.

- a) a significant problem
- b) a problem in society
- c) not much of a problem
- d) not a problem at all

Lecture Learning Outcomes



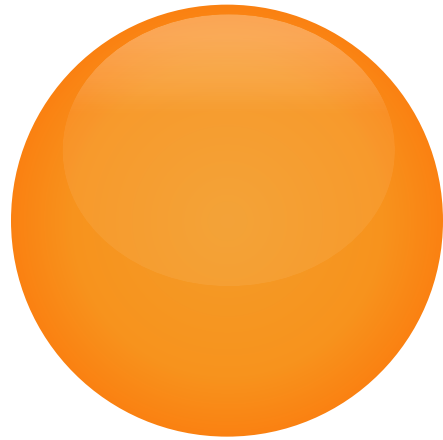
**Define
Theoretical
Concepts
Related to
Race**



**Describe
Trends
Related to
Race in the
U.S.**



**Evaluate
Perspectives
of Racial
Inequality in
the U.S.**



WHAT IS RACE? HOW IS RACE SOCIAALLY CONSTRUCTED?

Class Discussion 



Important Definitions

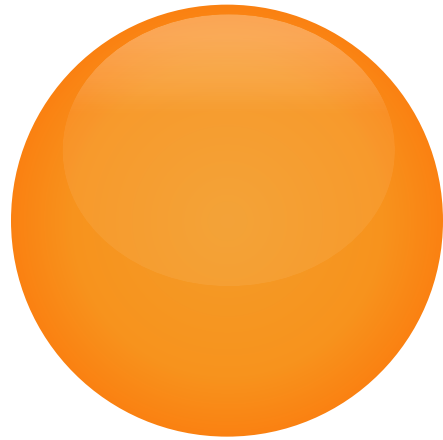
- Race: A socially constructed category typically associated with physical traits
- Ethnicity: One's cultural background
- Prejudice: Preconceived notions about an individual based on social categorization
- Discrimination: Taking actions to treat someone differently due to their social category
- Racism = Prejudice + Power

Shiao, Bode, Beyer and Selvig (2012) Summary

- Research Question: How can theories on the social construction of race be updated to overcome the genomic challenge?
- Key Concepts: social constructionist account of race, human genome challenge, contact hypothesis, status theory
- Research Methods: Qualitative/Exploratory
- Findings: There is a “bounded nature” associated with racial categorization.

Being White in the United States

- Who is White?
 - Italians?
 - Greeks?
 - Irish?
- Naturalization Act of 1790
- Ozawa V. United States (1922)
- United States V. Thind (1923)
- New mixed race Census category



WHAT ARE DIFFERENT POLICIES OF DOMINANT GROUPS TOWARD MINORITIES?

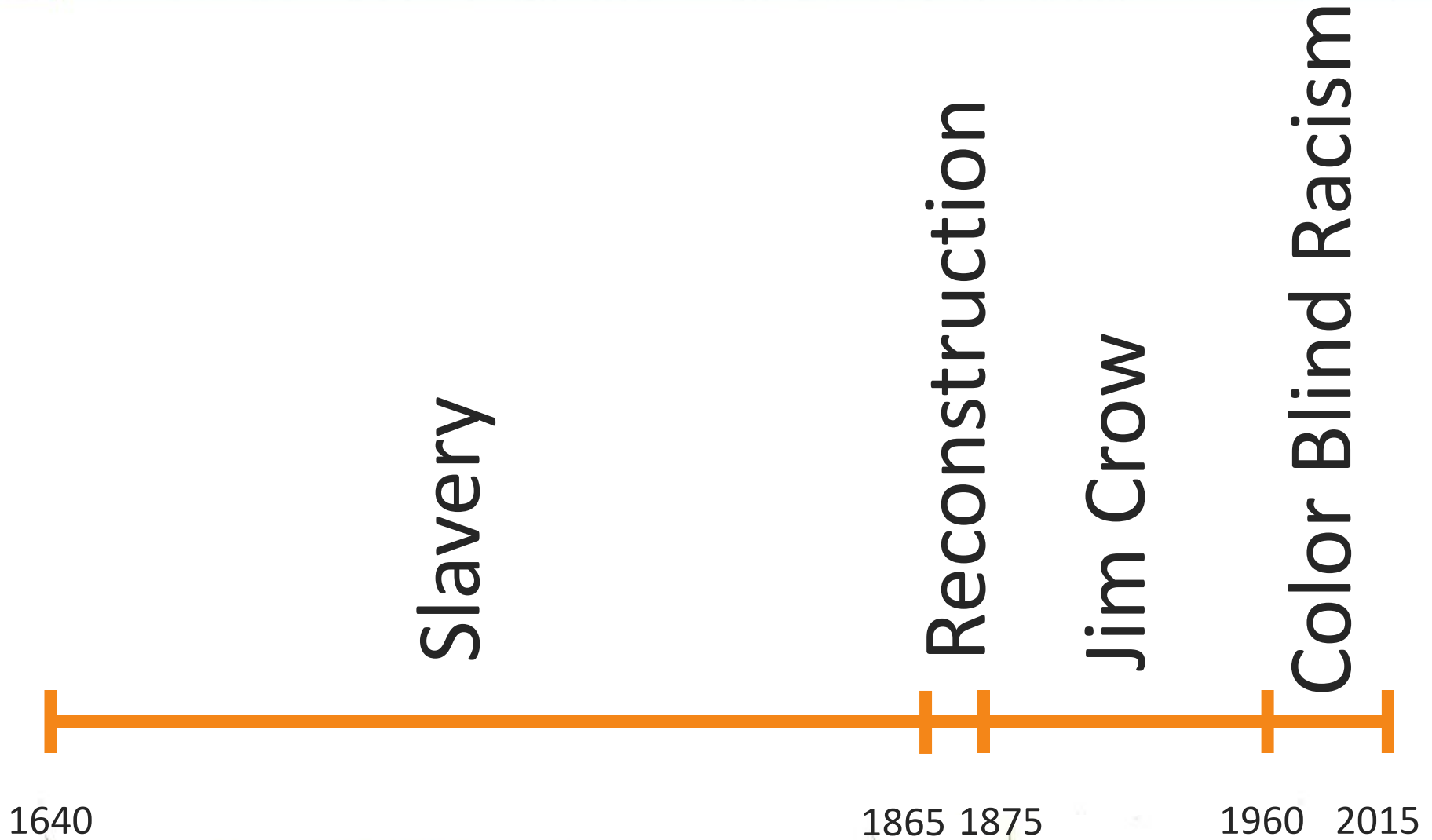
Class Discussion 

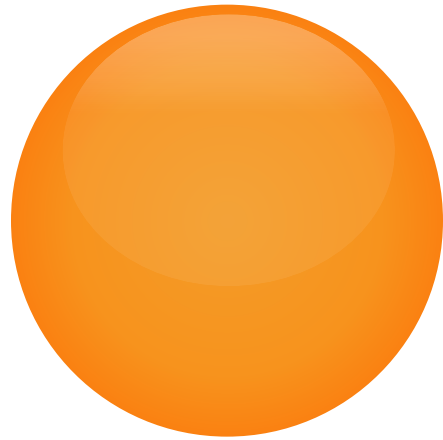


Policies of Dominant Groups Toward Minorities

- Multiculturalism
- Assimilation
- Segregation
- Internal Colonialism
- Population Transfer
- Genocide

History of Internal Colonialism of African Americans





WHY IS THERE DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL INEQUALITY?

Class Discussion 



Functionalist Concepts of Racial Inequality


- Explanations
 - Assimilation into a dominant culture preserves the stability of society.
 - Ethnic pluralism may also achieve stability.
- Questions Asked
 - How can minority groups be assimilated into mainstream society?
 - Can cultural and structural pluralism be maintained?

Symbolic Interactionism Concepts of Racial Inequality

- Explanations

- Race is a social construct
- Racial and ethnic categories are also linked with positions of privilege or marginalization

- Questions Asked


- How do we learn about race and ethnicity?
 - How are some groups more privileged than others?
 - How do our perceptions and beliefs perpetuate racial and ethnic inequalities?
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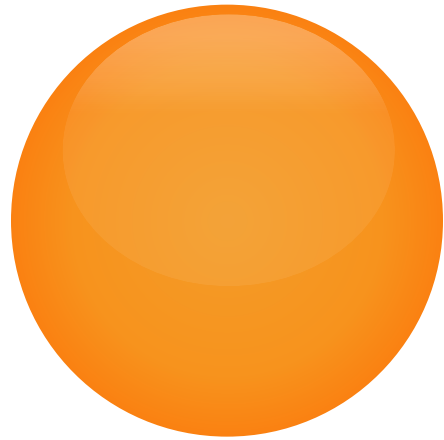
Conflict Concepts of Racial Inequality

- Explanations

- Inequality is systematically maintained by those trying to preserve their advantaged positions.
- Class divisions overlap with racial and ethnic divisions.
- Race is used to create a split-labor market

- Questions Asked

- What powerful interest groups determine racial and ethnic inequalities?
 - How are these structures maintained?
- 



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL INEQUALITY?

Class Discussion 



Median Annual Income of Year-Round Full-Time U.S. Workers

Sex/Education	Non-Hispanic White	Blacks	Asians	Hispanics
Some high school	(males) 32,560 (females) 21,917	(males) 26,524 (females) 22,298	(males) 23,737 (females) -	(males) 25,096 (females) 20,038
High school graduate	(males) 41,714 (females) 30,539	(males) 32,325 (females) 26,843	(males) 32,291 (females) 27,266	(males) 31,668 (females) 25,768
Some college	(males) 50,360 (females) 35,432	(males) 40,138 (females) 31,724	(males) 42,129 (females) 35,002	(males) 41,274 (females) 31,566
Associate degree	(males) 51,460 (females) 39,784	(males) 41,797 (females) 31,936	(males) 46,074 (females) 38,089	(males) 42,348 (females) 31,794
Bachelor's degree	(males) 66,065 (females) 46,863	(males) 51,504 (females) 46,224	(males) 60,044 (females) 51,089	(males) 55,867 (females) 44,085
Master's degree	(males) 80,362 (females) 61,034	(males) 61,101 (females) 55,875	(males) 89,472 (females) 72,415	(males) 72,180 (females) 55,187



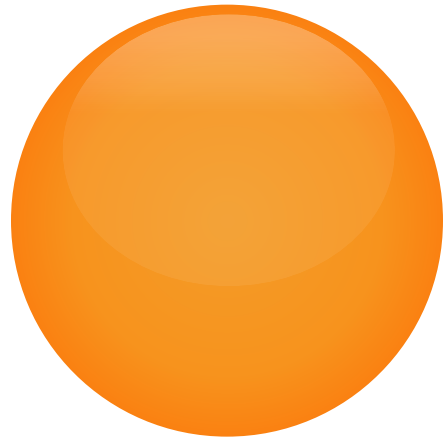


Small Group Discussion-

What is racial privilege?

Provide an illustration.





WHAT IS RACIAL PRIVILEGE?

Class Discussion





Video-

“Colorblind Denial and White Privilege”

-Tim Wise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V13nqzefyoE>



Small Group Discussion-

Evaluate Dr. Wise's Claims

- What is his central claim?
- What theoretical perspective best supports his claim?
- Can his claim be tested? How?
- If his perspective is correct, what are the implications?



Questions...

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela