The Critical Race Initiative (CRI) is delighted to announce our first event for this Fall 2013 semester: a teaching workshop entitled “Sociologically Teaching Race & Racism,” scheduled for Friday, September 27 at 1 p.m. in ASY 1101.

We invite you to attend this workshop, featuring three of our department authorities at teaching race & racism to undergraduate students, including Assistant Professor Rashawn Ray. In addition to the following, the presenters will provide teaching material suggestions, including videos, websites, texts, worksheets, activities, etc.

Les Andrist, Doctoral Candidate, will offer lessons learned about how to teach race and racism in an introductory sociology class, where he keeps the conversation centered on issues of power and inequality. Les will discuss his experience with explicit acknowledgement of his position as a white man. While providing insights about teaching race and racism that will be useful irrespective of an instructor’s own racial identity, Les will also address how he has self-consciously used his privilege as a white man to approach this topic.

Kendra Barber, Doctoral Candidate, will present on the always-fun topic (sarcasm intended) of what happens when the racial minority instructor teaches about race, and strategies for how to address this. As well as other teaching tactics, Kendra will share strategies for addressing uncomfortable classroom silence that sometimes happens among white students because of feelings of guilt and/or believing that the topic “doesn’t apply to them.”

Rashawn Ray, Assistant Professor, will share his experiences and strategies in teaching at large, predominately white public universities in the U.S. and Germany. He cites actual incidents from his classes to explain how he has been able to best help minority students understand their racialized experiences. Dr. Ray highlights three themes that can be helpful for instructors in and outside of the classroom: 1) Dealing with Whiteness: Racial Marking via Proportional Representation, 2) The Racial Slip: Learning to Interact with Whites in Professional Settings, and 3) Learning "We" Aren't All the Same: Social Class Divisions among Minorities.

Please distribute this email to your networks, as instructors – and future instructors – from sociology and other departments are encouraged to attend! Feel free to contact us for further information at bpratt@umd.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at this teaching workshop on Friday, September 27 at 1 p.m. in ASY 1101.

- Critical Race Initiative | Department of Sociology | University of Maryland