

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Comprehensive Examination Questions and Readings

Statement of the Field:

The field includes a variety of perspectives and concerns including race relations, racism, ethnic stratification, immigration, ethnic economies and ethnic politics. Race and ethnicity in the United States today is the central substantive concern, but the field is explicitly comparative, both because no theorizing in this area can be based on the experience of only one society, and also because we are committed to the proposition that the structures of any one society can be understood only with reference to other societies. The field is also historical in the sense that we believe that social structures and attitudes must be understood as historical developments, and we also believe that contemporary ethnic and racial structures need to be understood, if not totally explained, in the context of the spread of European colonialism and imperialism. The reading list includes works written from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including Marxist, Weberian, assimilationist, pluralist, rational choice, social biological and symbolic interactionist. It is also eclectic methodologically, including historical, ethnographic, quantitative and formal theoretical works.

Readings: Students should be familiar with all the works on the required list, to the extent that they can write intelligently about the principal issues addressed by the book or article, the author's theoretical and methodological orientations, how the work might be criticized or improved, and how it compares with others dealing with similar themes. Students are also expected to be equally familiar with some of the works on the supplementary list, and at least generally familiar with most of the supplementary list.

Recommended courses: SOCY729B: Critical Race Theory; SOCY729C: Intersectionality; SOCY627: Immigration and Ethnicity; SOCY645: Sociology of the Self Concept; SOCY789: Racial Residential Segregation.

[B]= BOOK

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