

INTL 410/510: The Global Story of Race

CRN: 26854/26855

Time: 12:00-1:50 PM

Location: 191 ANS

Instructor: Dr. Lesley Jo Weaver

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office: PLC 358

office hours: Tu/Th 10:00-11:30AM

Course Description: There is no such thing as biological human race. So how did race become such a salient social category? And why does it persist? Working from a historical, biological, and anthropological perspective, this course first explains how race came to be a key principle of social organization in various global locations, including the USA, India, and Brazil. Then it explores why the concept of race is biologically invalid. It finishes with a critical look at present-day social implications of misapprehensions about human variation, with a focus on structural racism.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete all requirements should be able to:

1. Summarize how views of human difference have changed over human history.
2. Explain the basics of human biological variability and how those relate to concepts of race.
3. Analyze how racial caste systems are maintained through global and national institutions and policies.
4. Understand present-day racial inequity in historical and global perspective.

Required Texts

1. Graves, Joseph L., Jr. 2001. *The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millenium*. Rutgers, NJ: Rutgers University Press. ISBN 978-081353302
2. Harrison, Guy. 2010. *Race and Reality: What Everyone Should Know about our Biological Diversity*. New York: Prometheus Books. ISBN 978-1591027676
3. Hobbs, Jeff. 2015. *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League*. New York: Scribner. ISBN 978-1476731919

Recommended Texts

1. Goodman, Alan, et al. 2019. *Race: Are We So Different?* Second edition. New York: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 978-1119472476

GRADING will be based on two exams, a written assignment, and class participation as follows:

Exams (2; 100 pts each)	200 pts
Written assignment (1)	
50 pts	
<u>Canvas discussion posts (6; 10 pts each)</u>	
<u>60 pts</u>	
TOTAL POSSIBLE	310 pts

Grading scale: A+=98+; A=93-97; A-=90-92; B+=88-89; B=83-87; B-=80-82; C+=78-79; C=73-77; C-=70-72; D+=68-69; D=63-67; D-=60-62; F=59 or below.

Exams: Questions on the exams will be based on the readings and the in-class presentations and discussions. The second exam is not comprehensive, it is only on material covered after the first exam.

Written assignment: At the beginning of the course, you will take a pre-test about your knowledge and perceptions about race and racism. Toward the end of the quarter, you will write an essay in which you critically analyze your initial responses in light of what you have learned. Your essay assignment is due by email before class on the due date noted in the syllabus. Details about the essay will be made available in class.

Class attendance and participation (including weekly posts): Grades will be based on your attendance and participation in class discussions. In order to get full credit you must not only attend class on time, but also meaningfully contribute to the discussion. In addition, you will compose weekly posts on our class Canvas page with your impressions and experiences concerning race **as it relates to our class topics**. You may write about more personal aspects and experiences in your life, on campus, or at home, but you must relate it to our topical issues. Bring your entry to each Wednesday class meeting when we'll hold a discussion of each student's blog. Entries must be posted on Tuesday before midnight each week, starting with the first week of class. Your posting is worth half of your participation score on discussion days.

Make-up policy: A student may be allowed to make up an exam scheduled in class if and only if: 1) the student has a written excuse from a doctor, religious leader, coach, or other similar authority, **and** 2) the student makes arrangements **prior to the exam** that s/he will be absent. The only exception to this rule is if the written excuse from a doctor documents the medical inability of the student to use a phone or send email prior to the exam. If a student misses a test **without making prior arrangements**, the student will be assigned an F for that exam.

If the writing assignment is turned in late, 5 points will be deducted for each day that passes beyond the due date, including weekend days.

There is no make-up for attendance and participation, including your Canvas posts, so if you cannot attend regularly or find it too difficult to participate in discussions, you should consider taking another course. No excuses are needed or accepted for absences, except in the case of an exam day as described above.

Accessible education statement: *The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 155 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.*