Race vs. Class, Gender, etc.
Sociologists debate the role of race in people’s lives. Some argue that race has a significant role in people’s lives while others argue that race is unimportant or less important than other factors. The two sides to this debate have different views about the extent to which racism exists. Using relevant literature, weigh-in on this debate about the role of race and the extent of racism.


Race and the Precarious Middle Class

Income inequality has increased substantially since 1970 as the American Economy has polarized into a bifurcated or 'hour glass' economy. Consequently, there has also been a rise in the Sociological literature on the growing precariousness of the 'middle class', particularly among racial minorities. Review the trends and causes of the growth of income inequality and the methodological approaches scholars have taken to understanding its implications for the middle class.


Immigration and Shifting Color Line

Scholars have been very interested in how the immigration of Latinos, Caribbeans, Africans, and Asians is effecting the U.S. racial composition and potentially altering the racial order. Some race scholars suggest the racial divide is shifting from white/non-white to non-black/black. Others suggest a more complex system is emerging. Describe the scholarship regarding a changing racial divide, making sure to include the major scholars and their arguments. What evidence do they bring to support their arguments? What argument and supporting evidence do you find the most convincing? Why?


Brown, Michael K, Martin Carnoy, Elliot Currie, Troy Duster, David B. Oppenheimer, Marjorie


Gordon, Milton M. 1964. *Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion, And*
O’Brien, Eileen. 2008 The Racial Middle: Latinos and Asian Americans Living Beyond the


Immigration and Varying Outcomes

What accounts for the differences in why some immigrant groups in the United States have done better than others? How adequate is classic assimilation theory for explaining these differences? Provide your own understanding of this, relying on the literature that supports you and criticizing the literature that doesn’t.


Racial Threat Hypothesis
The “threat hypothesis” is based on the belief that white persons are threatened when non-white minorities compete for the same valued resources. Identify and discuss the sociological literature regarding race threat and the main features of the “threat hypothesis” that would help you explain the social processes of social forces that result in non-white minorities being perceived as threats by white persons. Use examples from the research literature in your discussion.


Critical Race Theory

Provide an overview of the basic themes that comprise Critical Race Theory (CRT). Also, discuss how CRT has served as a vehicle for the rise of other critical studies movements, such as Asian American Legal Scholarship, Critical Race Feminism, and Latina/o Critical Theory (LatCrit).


Chicano Sociology

Define Chicano Sociology, trace its origin and development, and isolate the major premises or underlying assumptions of the field. Who are the primary exemplars or leading theorists in the field? Identify and discuss the most important issues, questions, and unresolved problems in the field. Finally, critically evaluate and assess the major strengths and weaknesses, and the future, of Chicano Sociology.


Mazón, Mauricio. XXXX. The Zoot-Suit Riots. PLACE: PUBLISHER.


Pagán, Eduardo O. XXXX. Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon. PLACE: PUBLISHER.


Pena, Manuel. XXXX. “Class, Gender, and Machismo: The Treacherous Woman Folklore of Male Workers.” Gender & Society XX: XX-XX.
Segura, Denise A. XXXX. “Chicana and Mexican Immigrant Women at Work: The Impact of Class, Race, and Gender on Occupational Mobility.” Gender & Society XX: 37-52.

Black Studies: Culture, Class, and Biology

Black Studies Scholars often approach the field in three ways – race as culture, race as class, and race as biology. Define these approaches, and trace their histories by using foundational works in these areas, paying particular attention to overlaps, shortcomings, and current critiques, outgrowths, and trends.


