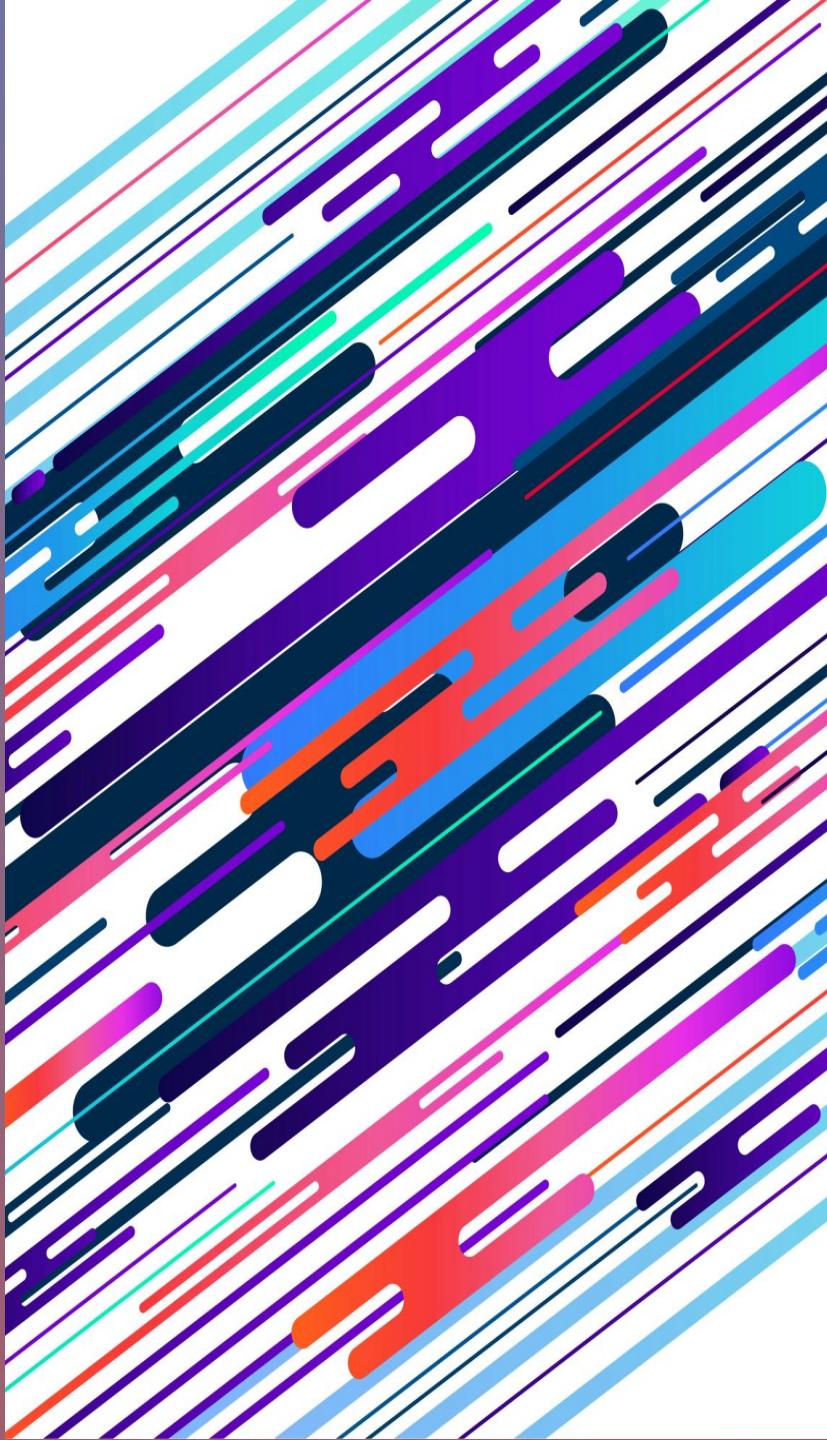


# SYSTEMIC RACISM: MYTHS AND REALITIES

SOC 373

Patricia Fernández-Kelly  
Princeton University  
Department of Sociology

September 2, 2025



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Welcome ALL who bring gifts of many kinds:

Auditors

First-Year Students

Student Athletes

Transfer Students

Differently Abled Students

International Students

Latinx Students

Students in the LGBTQ Community

Children of Immigrants || Undocumented Students

DREAMERS

Students of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities

Students of all Religious and Philosophical backgrounds

Students still looking for an identity

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## **DEPORTMENT I**

The body as an instrument of  
performance:  
What does yawning mean in a  
classroom?



Is a classroom a  
gym?



Adobe Stock | #251900184

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## DEPARTMENT II

Laptops and other electronic devices are allowed.

**HOWEVER:** Not depending on such instruments usher in better comprehension and higher grades.

Please don't "multitask."

The ultimate issue is about  
MUTUAL RESPECT

## DEPARTMENT III

Late and early arrivals:  
Can you let the instructor know?  
PLEASE?



# Preceptors' Office Hours

**PRECEPT TIMES**

Syllabus  
Readings  
Requirements  
Office Hours

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**  
Plagiarism  
AI



# Panchito's Responsible AI Guide

(For curious minds  
at Princeton — and  
beyond)



## 1 Ask with Purpose

Before you type, pause for a second:

"What am I really trying to learn?"

"Is this something I could explain  
to a friend afterward?"

The better the question, the better the answer.

## 2 Keep It Your Work

AI can help brainstorm, explain, and inspire —  
but you are the author.

Use my words as a spark not a substitute.

Copy-pasting my answers as your own is  
like wearing someone else's graduation robe —  
it might fit, but it's not yours.



## 4 Think Like a Detective

I can be fast and detailed — but I'm not perfect.

Always check:

- Does this make sense?
- Is there a credible source?
- Would I bet my grade or reputation on this?

## 5 Protect Privacy

Don't share private data — yours or anyone else's.  
Treat me like a public chalkboard.  
whatever you write could be seen by  
others in a different form.



## 6 Stay Curious and Kind

Ask me about new ideas, wild hypotheticals, or "what if" scenarios.

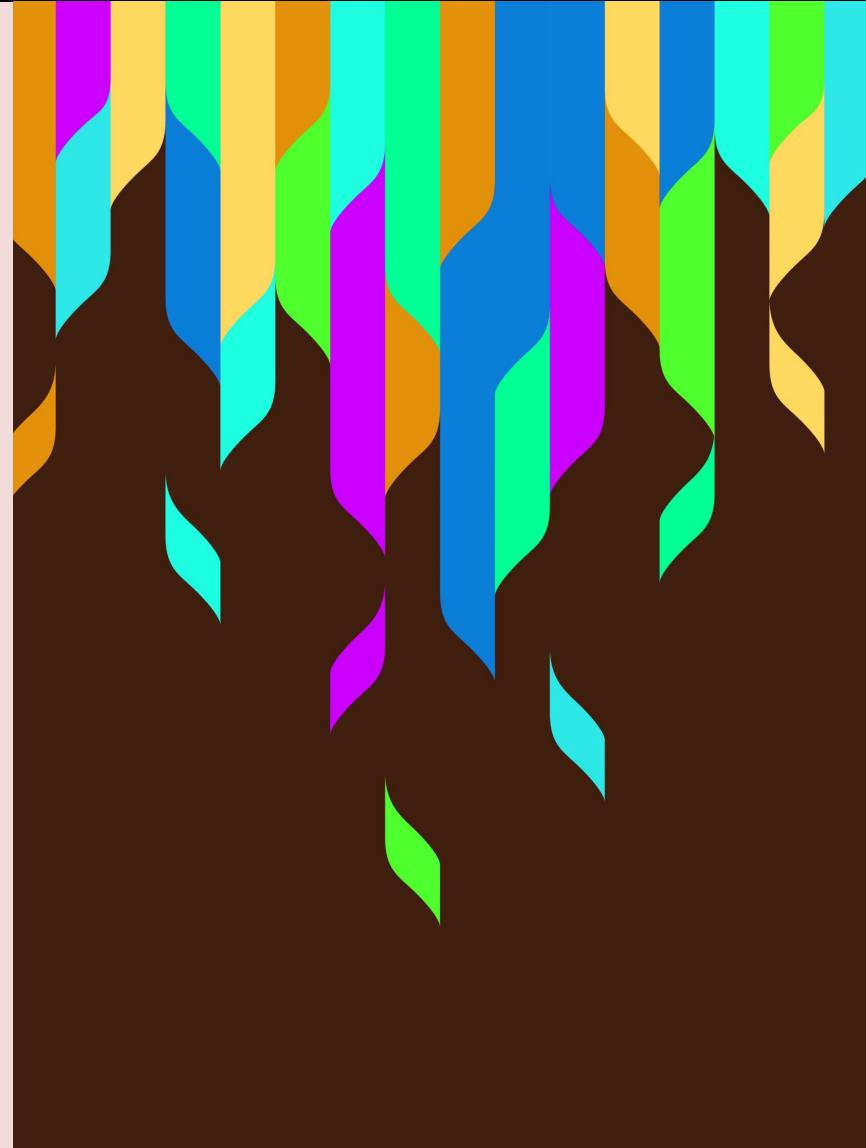
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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

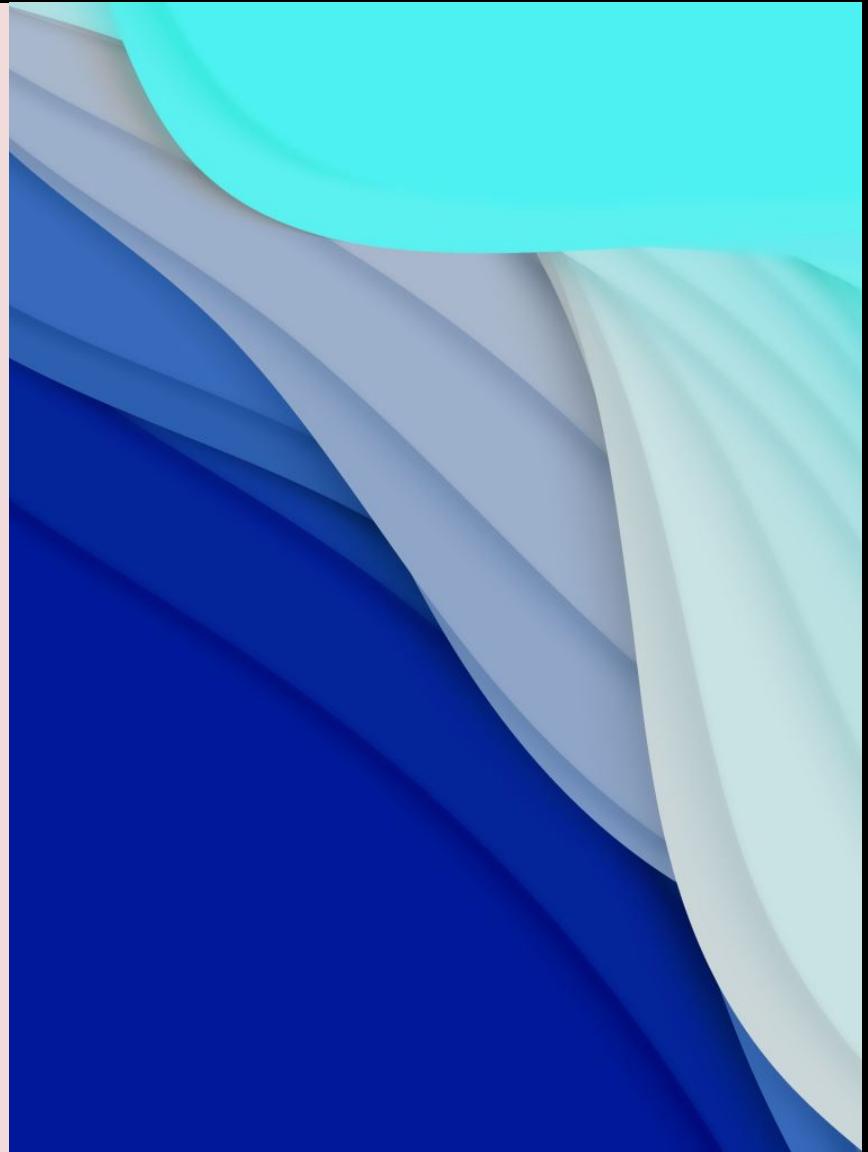
Showing up  
(attendance)  
Reading as a necessity  
Improving writing skills  
Punctuality



# TWO TAKE HOME EXAMS



ATTENDANCE IS  
MANDATORY



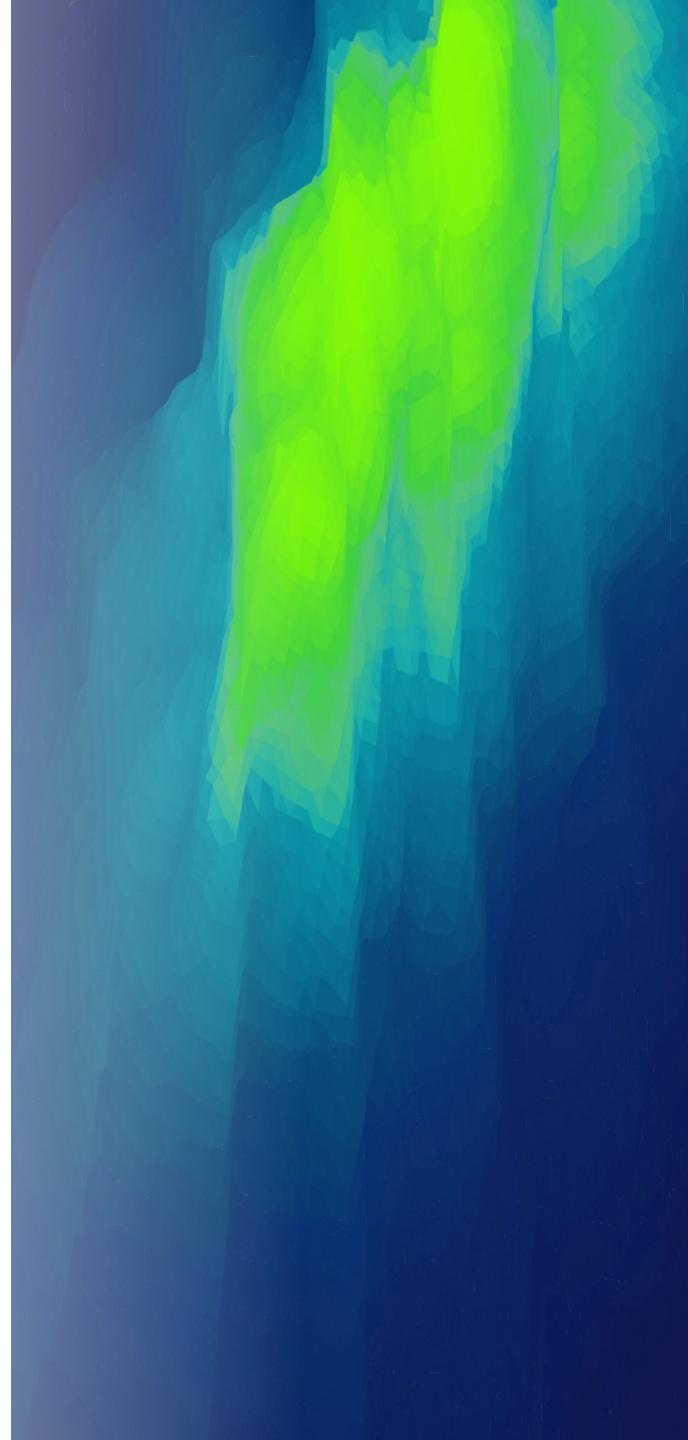


We come together at a time of change.

- \* At least 70 (out of 195) countries held elections in 2024—good sign for democracy.

On the other hand:

- \* Concerns about climate change.
- \* Wars in various regions.
- \* Rise of authoritarian regimes.
- \* Questions about democracy.
- \* Debates over Critical Race Theory and “wokeness.”



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Against that context we focus on science, including the social sciences, as tools to distinguish facts from opinions; myths from realities.

The case for Sociology.

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Science is an open-ended process of inquiry and knowledge building.

To achieve its objectives, science depends on the elaboration of theories, the formulation of concepts, and the testing of hypotheses.

Science also relies on methodologies whose main purpose is to gain an increasingly more precise understanding of empirical realities.

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## Objectives:

1. Improved understanding of the mechanics surrounding systemic racism through immersion in readings and exercises that involve rigorous conceptualization and attention to theory.

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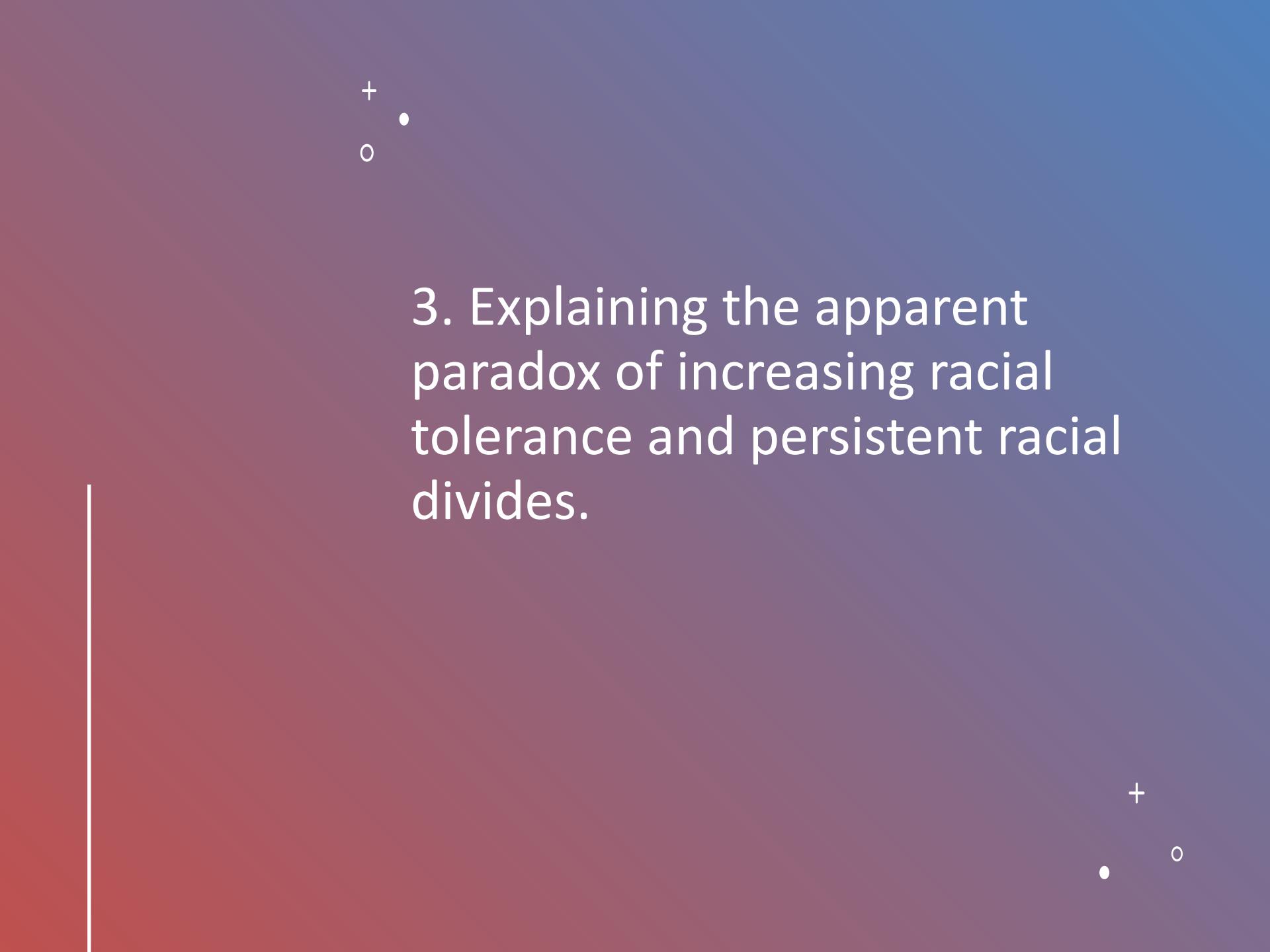
## 2. Applying sociological principles to understand the present moment in the history of our nation.

Disputing “alternative facts” and interrogating world views.

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### 3. Explaining the apparent paradox of increasing racial tolerance and persistent racial divides.

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## INTRODUCING OUR FIRST AUTHOR:

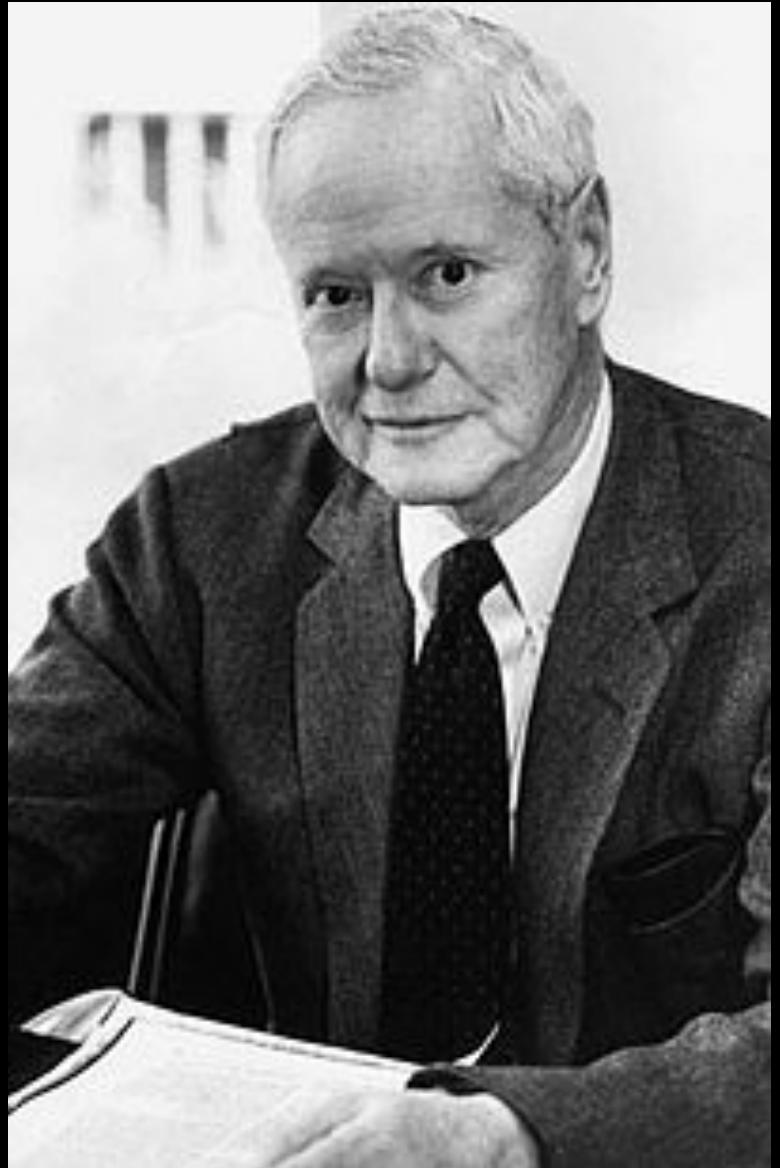
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Robert K. Merton  
(1949).  
“Discrimination  
and the American  
Creed”



HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
FALL TERM!

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