3 initial racial classifications

Europeans

Africans

Asians

* Overly simplistic classification used to advance the political and economic power of the European colonizers.

Racial cassifications are:

1. Social, cultural, legal, political construction of racial categories meant to construct and maintain hierarchies of power and privilege
2. As they were constructing us society,leaders among European americans fabricated the cultural /behavioral characteristics associated with each “ race”, linking superior traits with Europeans and negative inferior ones to blacks and Indians…”

-AAA statement on race

* Racial classifications are not legal or political they are also social and cultural

Benjamin franklin – 1751 why should Pennsylvania, founded by the enlgihs, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our anglifying them, and will never adopt our language or customs, any more than they can acquire our complexion?

Demonstrates how racial classifications are contingent on history and are social, political, and legal constructions.

Movie on race

23 million imigrants in 40 years

Immigrants held the most dangerous and 50 percent of factory workers were immigrants.

It was stated that as the immigration increased the people would get darker and start resorting to more crime. Also the time when scientific race theory started to take off.

Higher order of white races and then the “lower races of Europe”

The more the new comers were forced into slums and settlement the more they emphasized the idea of race as the cause.

They yanked a boy from school and hung him for allegedly killing a white girl.

The House I live in was a short film at the beginning of ww Ii in order to bring people together.

Why does race matter

Groups excluded from national unity and full national rights

* Annexed groups colonized
* Economically exploited
* Each group remained radicalized and were systematically excluded from programs which subsidized middle class status.

Red-lining

* Federal legislation that subsidiezed the wealth of Caucasians, while disinvesting wealth for non- white populations explicitly refused to back loans for people of color
* Federal housing administration: 1934-1968
* Segregated
  + Neighborhoods
  + Education
  + Workforce

Detroits time bomb: race and housing in the 1940’s by sugrue

* “ in the tight postwar housing market, landlords took advantage of their power to screen out any tenants who might be risky. Blacks, especially those with large families, suffered the greatest hardships. Landlords reguralry turned away prospective tenants with children, and the birth of a child was often cause of an eviction.” (Surgrue 2005: 53).

Bootleg Landlords

Legally divided single-family homes into apartments:

* Worste housing stock: substandard, segregated and overcrowded

High rent

* 25 dollars/month (prior) to 15-18 dollars /week
  + Shifted from white – black occupancy.

Arcadia, ca

* Refused to allow Mexican workers to live within the city limits
* Created public covenant to keep arcadia Caucasian forever.

Self-Identifying VS. imposed identity

* Pre 1980- census taker chose race
* The way people view themselves is not always how they are classified

Color Blind Nation

* The rules may be color blind but the people are not. The question remains, therefore, whether the law can truly exist apart from the color conscious society in which it exists, as a skeleton devoid of flesh; or whether law is the embodiment of society the reflection ;of a particular citizenry’s arranged complexity of relations

Intersections of Race and Class

Many kartrina victims waited for days at the new Orleans superdome for government help.

Social Inequality

Max Weber’s criteria for measuring social inequality:

* **Wealth =** the extent to which they have accumulated economic resources
* **Power =** the ability to achieve ones goals and objectives even against the will of others
* **Prestige =**  social eseteem, repect,or admiration that a society confers on people

Three types of societies

* Egalitarian – no individual or group has appreciably more wealth, power, or prestige than any other.
* Rank – unequal access to prestige or status but not unequal access to wealth or power.
* Stratified societies – considerable inequality in all forms of social rewards (power, wealth, and prestige).

Open vs Closed Class systems

* **In an open class systems:** an individual can change his or her social position dramatically within a lifetime
* **Closed class system:** have no social mobility often dictated by religion social status ascribed at birth.

Class hierarchy

* A category abd or heiarchy determining an individuals socio economic status.