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 and or hierarchy determining an individuals socio economic status.

New day

How economic inequality harms societies (film Notes)

* Paradox wealth of a society does not dictate life expectancy but inside of society it has a direct effect on life expectancy
* How does wealth discrepancies affect life expectancy
* Trust within a society is directly correlated with inequality
* Homicide and crime goes up and is directly correlated with economic inequality
* More unequal societies are more likely to retain the death sentence
* Its not just the poor who are effected by inequality

Socioeconomic stratification

* Superordinate class
* Subordinate class
  + Limited access to valuable resources
  + Access to resources determined by the superordinate class
* Populations
  + Recialized groups
  + Ethnic groups
  + Women
  + Children
  + Elderly
  + People raised in poverty

Income inequality

* Variable access to: health care; education; job opportunities (security/severance);wealth;living standards; & power

U.S. Job security and severance

* Bruce Rohde, former CEO and chairman of ConAgra corporation, was awarded generously for 8 years of poor performance on his job.

How does the superordinate group limit access to valuable resources?

* De jure and de facto discrimination
* Hegemonic ideologies

Hegemonic ideologies

* In a stratified social order subordinates often comply with the dominate social order by internalizing their values and accepting its naturalness

New Day

Criminal Justice system

* At present there are 2.2 million people behind bards in the united states
* An increase of 1.9 million since 1972
* What is creating the sky rocketing rates?
  + Politics (main one that research points to as the cause)
    - Laws
    - Policing
    - Sentencing
    - “Tough on crime” / “Drug Wars”
  + Population increase
  + More crime

Viewed CJS as a new facial caste system:

* Alexander: director of the racial justice project of the American civil liberties union in northern ca
* System of mass incarceration as a form of social control functions in a manner similar to Jim Crow

Skewed racial composition

* Disproportionately affects poor, disenfranchised, and radicalized populations.

Central Theme

* How do structured patterns of inequality and privilege affect the incarceration rate, health/well-being and possible human rights abuses in the criminal justice systems and immigrant detention systems.

Michel Foucault BIO-Power

* Bio power = found in social welfare agencies and other such institutions, implemented its disciplinary strategies through health dimensions of both individuals and popns.
* Essential to new type of power and new ways of power and new ways of controlling individual bodies and populations.

Eastern State Penitentiary

* 1829-1917 “Pennsylvania System” Considered the worlds 1st penitentiary

Reform not punish

* 19th century reform movement
* Quaker philosophy?
* Supposed to be more humane
  + Focus on rehabilitation and reform of the individual

Sean Kelly, vp @esp

* For a major prison site to not mention what’s happening in the American prison system today would be irresponsible.. I think we actually were irresponsible for a long time by not push it harder”
* Advocated for current exhibit on mass incarceration
* 1st attempt at advocacy

Immigrant detention centers

* Grown exponentially in the past decade
* To meet the increased demand federal government has largely turned to private entities
  + Contracting with not federal detention facilities
  + Subcontracting method
  + Problem: distances the federal government form the daily detention center operations
  + Often leads to abuses within the system due to a lack of oversight and monitoring.

Problems/concerns raised by advocates

* Lack of access to legal representation
* Frequent transfers of detainees without providing notification to family members attorneys
* Absence of a registration system for sub contracted detention centers
* Use of detention facilities often 100s of miles from immigrants homes

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

* 2009ICE announced reforms “overhaul of the immigrant detention system
* NGOS and lawsuits have played a major role in bringing attention to the human rights abuses in the system