

**SKIDMORE COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**EC 361/002 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF RACISM
FALL 2003**

INSTRUCTOR: Yahya M. Madra
OFFICE: Harder Hall 207E
PHONE: x8303
EMAIL: ymadra
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1 to 3 PM, or by appointment.
COURSE MEETS: MW, 2:30-3:50 PM, in BO 103.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to various understandings of how racism and the economy interact in distinct settings and within an international context. Introductory level microeconomics and macroeconomics are the official prerequisites, but ultimately the only relevant prerequisite is an open mind; all economic terms will be explained as they arise. However, you must come to class prepared, i.e. having done the assigned readings. **This is absolutely essential for the class to function.** Depending on availability, there may be guest lecturers, and film screenings and discussion to complement the reading material. The main textbook for the course is,

Randy Albelda, Robert Drago, Steven Shulman (2001) Unlevel Playing Fields: Understanding Wage Inequality and Discrimination. Cambridge, MA: Economic Affairs Bureau, Inc., henceforth **ADS**.

You may purchase this book at Skidmore Shop. We will also use a number of selected chapters from a wide variety of readings. These readings will be handed out in class.

The requirements for the course are as follows: **[1]** During the semester you will have to write a total of seven (7) response papers. A response paper is a critical and engaged discussion of any of the assigned readings, written in a well-thought manner in light of what you have learned in the course. It should be about 2 pages long, typed double-spaced with 12 font Helvetica (or a font similar in size) and should clearly state which reading you are discussing. The response paper will be due at the beginning of class (i.e. within the first 10 minutes) on the first day that we begin discussing the reading in class; no late papers will be accepted. Each of the seven papers has to be on a reading from a different subsection of the reading list (as indicated by the topic numbers).

[2] Following the completion of the first, theoretical portion of the course, there will be an in-class midterm exam on **October 29**. A study guide will be provided in a week advance. **[3]** A research paper, written on any topic of your choice that is relevant to the course will be due on the last day of the final week, by noon. However, you have to get clearance from me for your paper topic by **November 10**, the latest. In the paper, you have to demonstrate that you have done substantial research into your topic and show that you are able to incorporate material learned in the course as it relates to your topic (i.e. not just repeating a summary of course material).

Your grade will be determined as follows:

35%	response papers (5% for each paper)
25%	midterm
30%	research paper
10%	attendance & participation

READING LIST:

I. POLITICAL, ECONOMY, AND RELATED MATTERS

Resnick, S. and R. Wolff (1987) Economics: Marxian vs. Neoclassical, Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp.1-14, 133-148.

Fiener, Susan (1994) "The Conservative/Free Market, the Liberal/Imperfectionist, and the Radical/Exploitation Schools." In Race and Gender in the American Economy: Views from Across the Spectrum, edited by Susan Fiener. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

II. WHAT IS RACISM?

Memmi, A. (2000) Racism, Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, pp.3-19

Omi, M. and H. Winant (1995) Racial Formation in the United States, New York and London: Routledge, Chapter 4.

Hall, Stuart (1980) "Race, articulation and societies structured in dominance." In Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism, London: UNESCO, pp.336-343.

III. DOES RACISM EXIST IN THE ECONOMY?

ADS: Chapter 2.

IV. NEOCLASSICAL THEORIES OF RACISM

ADS: Chapters 3 and 5.

V. POLITICAL ECONOMY APPROACH TO RACISM

ADS: Chapters 6, 7, and 8

VI. SLAVERY AS A MODE OF PRODUCTION

Hindess, B. and P. Hirst (1975) Pre-capitalist Modes of Production, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, pp. 109-110, 125-129, 134-136, 156-162.

Resnick, S. and R. Wolff (1987) Economics: Marxian vs. Neoclassical, pp.148-150.

Davis, A. (1981) Women, Race & Class, New York: Random House, pp.3-12.

Williams, E. (1944) Capitalism & Slavery, Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, pp. 3-29, 51-60

Reich, M. (1981) Racial Inequality, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp.219-267.

VII. THE ECONOMICS OF COLONIALISM

Hymer, Stephen (1971) "Robinson Crusoe and the Secret of Primitive Accumulation," Monthly Review 23 (4), pp. 11-36.

Churchill, Ward (1993) "Radioactive Colonization: A Hidden Holocaust in Native North America." In Struggle for the Land: Indigenous Resistance to Genocide, Ecocide and Expropriation in Contemporary North America. Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press.

VIII. THE ECONOMICS OF CONTEMPORARY APARTHEID REGIMES

Roy, Sara (2001) "Decline and Disfigurement: The Palestinian Economy after Oslo." In The New Intifada: Resisting Israel's Apartheid, edited by R. Carey. London: Verso.

IX. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND REPARATIONS

- Becker, G.** (1992) "How Is Affirmative Action Like Crop Subsidies?" In Race & Gender in the American Economy.
- Anderson, B.** (1997) "Government Intervention, Anti-Discrimination Policy, and The Economic Status of African Americans." In A Different Vision (Volume 2), edited by Thomas D. Boston. London and New York: Routledge.
- Krauthammer, C.** (1990) "Reparations for Black Americans." In Race & Gender in the American Economy.
- America, R.** (1997) "The Theory of Restitution." In A Different Vision.

X. URBAN POVERTY AND RACISM

- Mincy R.** (1997) "Ghetto Poverty." In A Different Vision.
- Levitan, S. and E. Miller** (1992) "Enterprise Zones Are No Solution for Our Blighted Areas." In Race & Gender in the American Economy.
- Brimmer, A.** (1997) "Preamble: The Economic Cost of Discrimination Against Black Americans." In A Different Vision.

XI. RACISM AND IMMIGRATION IN EUROPE

- Brah, A.** (1996) Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities, London and New York: Routledge, Chapter 2
- Balibar, E.** (1991) "Es gibt Kienen Staat in Europa: Racism and Politics in Europe Today." New Left Review 186, pp. 5-19.

XII. RACISM AND IMMIGRATION IN NORTH AMERICA

- Thobani, S.** (2000) "Closing Ranks." Race & Class 42 (1), pp.35-53.
- DeFreitas, G.** (1998) "Immigration, Inequality, and Policy Alternatives." In Globalization and Progressive Economic Policy, edited by D. Baker, G. Epstein, and R. Pollin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gutierrez, D.** (1995) Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity, Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 6
- Prashad, V.** (2000) The Karma of Brown Folk, Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, pp.1-9, 157-183.
- Zizek, S.** (1997) "Multiculturalism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism." New Left Review 225, pp. 28-51.