ASC*4020
SCIENTIFIC RACISM: INTERDISCIPLINARY AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES
University of Guelph
Winter 2014

Instructor: Prof. A. S. Winston, Department of Psychology
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Office Hours: Th. 1 – 2 or by appointment

Prerequisites: None

Class Format: Lecture and Discussion: Th: 2:30 – 5:20 MacKinnon 233
Lecture slides will normally be posted on COURSELINK by midnight before the lecture.


Course Content:
This course explores “scientific racism,” i.e., the use of scientific methods and data to promote ideas of racial inequality. We begin with the origin of conceptions of race in the work of German Enlightenment philosophers, such as Blumenbach and Herder. We end with modern manifestations of scientific racism in the work of psychologists Philippe Rushton in Canada, Richard Lynn in Ireland, and Kevin MacDonald in the United States, and the use of race in modern medicine. The history of scientific racism in 19th and 20th century biology, medicine, anthropology, and psychology will be examined. The production of racial hierarchies through science will be situated in the changing social contexts of colonialism, slavery, mass immigration, and urbanization. Finally, we will consider the ways in which scientific racism poses serious challenges to conceptions of value-neutrality, scientific objectivity and scientific progress. The current use of scientific data on race and intelligence by violent racial extremists and neo-Nazi organizations will be discussed as an ethical problem for the university, academic disciplines, and society.

Evaluation: (subject to revision)
Midterm examination 28%
Research paper 30%
Final Examination 35%
Contribution to discussion 7%

This course will address the following University of Guelph Learning Objectives:
Literacy, Sense of Historical Development, Moral Maturity, Understanding of Forms of Inquiry, Depth and Breadth of Understanding, Independence of Thought, and Love of Learning

Course Calendar – subject to revisions and additions. “Documents” refers to the “Documents” section of Jackson and Weidman, starting on p. 255

Date: Topic Jackson & Weidman Chapter or pages
Jan. 9 Course introduction and overview prologue

Ancient and medieval conceptions of “race”: Greece and Spain Ch 1 pp. 1 – 6
Please examine the early uses of “race” in the Oxford English Dictionary, definition # 6 (read all of the variations under 6)
http://dictionary.oed.com.subzero.lib.uoguelph.ca/
“Does Race Exist?” Two brief statements created for NOVA ONLINE:
An antagonists perspective by C. Loring Brace
A proponents perspective by G. W. Gill
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/does-race-exist.html

Recommended: (NOT REQUIRED!)


16 Enlightenment origins of racial theory: Blumenbach, Herder, Kant Ch 1 pp. 7-27
   Documents: Blumenbach

Medicine, slavery, and the racial typology Ch. 2
Polygenism, science and religion Ch. 2
   Documents: Jefferson, Knox

23 Evolutionary theory and race Ch. 3
From physiognomy to craniometry
   Documents: Darwin, Ripley

30 Francis Galton, race, and measurement Ch. 4


Feb. 6 Race and the eugenics movement

Racial theory, intelligence testing and immigration
   Documents: Madison Grant
   If you are interested, you can read all of Madison’s Grant’s PASSING OF THE GREAT RACE at: www.archive.org

13 Mid-term examination – essay and short answer, in class

NO CLASS ON FEB. 20 – WINTER BREAK
27  **Scientific racism in the Third Reich**  
Documents: Gunther  


The attack on scientific racism by Boas and anthropology  
Documents: Boas

Mar. 6  **The resurgence of scientific racism in the Civil Rights Era**  
Documents: The effects of segregation.  

**Contemporary Scientific Racism: Jensen to Rushton**  
Ch. 6 & 7  
Paper topic must be approved by this date  
COURSELINK  
Please view Rushton’s talk at the American Renaissance in 2008, available on youtube – “Heritability of World IQ differences”  
Last day to drop – Midterm exams returned

13  **Critiques of Rushton and related work**  


**Contemporary scientific Racism: Richard Lynn and Kevin MacDonald**  
The use of scientific racism by contemporary White supremacist, neo-Nazi and extremist groups  
Please explore [www.stormfront.org](http://www.stormfront.org) and [www.amren.com](http://www.amren.com) for use of scientific material. Search the site for IQ, intelligence, crime, Rushton, Jensen, Lynn, etc.

**Scientific racism, academic freedom, and human rights**  
Article 7: Academic Freedom, pp. 7 – 8. UGFA Collective Agreement at [http://www.uoguelph.ca/facultyjobs/collectiveagreementapr262010.pdf](http://www.uoguelph.ca/facultyjobs/collectiveagreementapr262010.pdf)
20 Race and modern medicine; the revival of racial classification in genetics and medicine
Kaufman, J. S. , & Hall, S. A. (2003). The slavery hypertension hypothesis: dissemination and appeal of a modern race theory. Epidemiology and Society , 14, 111-117. COURSELINK critical commentaries of this article are available online.


27 Genetics, medicine, and forensic anthropology continued.
Ethics, Scientific racism and value-neutrality
Documents: American Anthropological Statement on Race (Jackson & Weidman)

The reporting of crime statistics by race.

Apr. 3 Race and the boundaries of Science. Course Review and Take-home exam questions provided

Take home final exam due April 10 at 5 pm by email. The exam consists of two integrative questions.

Midterm Exam
The midterm exam will consist of 12 short answer (3 lines) questions and one essay question. The exam will be held in our regular class period on Feb. 13.

Research Paper – Topic approved by Mar. 6, paper Due 5 pm Mar. 28.
I would like you to explore in depth any specific problem (e.g. IQ testing and racism, immigration and scientific racism, race and eugenics, race and modern medicine, race and criminology, racial theory and the arts), person (e.g. Galton, Boas, Brigham, Guenther, Jensen, Rushton) or location (e.g. scientific racism in Nazi Germany, South Africa, England) or any other topic in the course that interests you. The expectation is that you will read extensively and comment critically (i.e., criticize what you have read). Length is 10 pages plus references, due 5 pm, Mar. 28 by email to me. In fairness to others, each 24 hours late will result in a 3 point penalty on the grade for the paper. Further information will be provided on COURSELINK. Wikipedia cannot be used as a reference. Please make sure you understand the University of Guelph guidelines on plagiarism and academic misconduct: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconductoffen.shtml

Final Exam – Due 5 pm Apr. 10
The final take-home exam will consist of two integrative questions which will require use of text, lecture, and extra reading material. The exam will be available Apr. 3 and is due 5pm Apr. 10 by email submission to me. Word, Wordperfect, or rtf files are acceptable. I regret that extensions are not possible.

Class Discussion Grades
All students are expected to participate in discussion, and participation should, whenever possible, reflect reading of the material before class. I will ask you to assign yourself a discussion grade for each week, starting Jan. 16. Only the highest 7 grades will count, and I reserve the right to adjust your discussion
grade upwards or downwards by a maximum of 10%, to preserve fairness for all students. Guidelines for assigning discussion grades will be provided on COURSELINK.

Resources
Many important older works of scientific racism, such as books by Knox, Ripley, Grant, and others are available full text at www.archive.org. Useful articles may be found in the Journal of the History of Psychology, History of Psychology, History of the Human Sciences, History of Biology, Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, ISIS, and others. Excellent online materials on eugenics are available at: www.eugenicsarchive.org. The Pyscinfo and Psybooks databases (through the library) will also be helpful. The journal Nature Genetics published a special issue on race and the human genome in November 2004. Social studies of Science published a special issue on race and disease in 2008. Prof. Ann Morning of New York University has written extensively on issues of sociology and race. See her web page for copies of her articles: http://as.nyu.edu/object/annmorning.html

Selected Books on Scientific Racism: (for reference only – not required)


