

**SociologicalYOU - Chapter 10 Audio Lecture Transcript**

**SociologicalYOU** by Angela Thompson and Keith Whitworth

This is Next-Gen Introductory Sociology.

Welcome to Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity.

There are five modules in this chapter.

They are:

Module 1: A Sociological Perspective of Race and Ethnicity

Module 2: Structural Characteristics of Race and Ethnicity

Module 3: Social Problems Associated with Race and Ethnicity

Module 4: Applying the Sociological Imagination to Race and Ethnicity

Module 5: Social Changes and Race and Ethnicity

This PowerPoint does not cover every key term in Chapter 10. Please read your textbook to see what is not covered in the PPT as we review the contents of this chapter. I would encourage you to consider the following **Points to Ponder**. These should help you think critically about race and ethnicity.

First, how is race socially constructed?

Second, how do issues of race and ethnicity impact family education and health care for Black, Asian, Hispanic and White Americans

Third, what are contemporary social issues related to race and ethnicity.

**Module 1: The Sociological Perspective**

Let's examine the social construction of race by looking at some key terms beginning with race. For our purposes, race is defined as a socially constructed category of people based on real or perceived physical differences.

Ethnicity, on the other hand, is defined as social and cultural characteristics that set apart one group of people from another.

An origin is the heritage, nationality, group, lineage, or country of birth of the person, or the person's ancestors before they arrived in the United States.

Race is a socially constructed category of people based on real or perceived physical differences such as skin color.

The social construction of race is based on the historical time period social and cultural characteristics and personal interpretations.

An examination of the history of how the U.S. census survey as defined racial categories provides an excellent example of how the concept of race is socially constructed.

The categories of race have changed significantly since 1790 and the names of racial categories have changed over time indicating that some races have been excluded and that race is not a fixed concept.

Even today there are questions as to identifying even self-identification of

various races as the U.S. census survey now allows individuals to choose

multiple races.

Ethnicity refers to the social and cultural characteristics that set apart

one group of people from another and as a way to group people together

based upon common heritage language food and values.

This can be problematic as often it is difficult to define unique social and

cultural characteristics as in the case of determining the uniqueness of Hispanic, Latino, and Chicano ethnicities.

Irish Americans are an ethnic group but many do not consider themselves

ethnically unique and simply identify as Americans rather than Irish Americans.

There are often stereotypes and prejudices associated with race and

ethnicity.

Stereotypes are generalized opinions and impressions of individuals groups or social classes

Stereotype threat is a concern experienced when one feels at risk of

confirming the inferiority or negative characteristics of one's group and prejudice is a preconceived judgment or opinion of other people and races

that leads to preferring one kind of person over another.

Stereotypes pertain to assumed characteristics of a group such as

assuming that the majority of Asian Americans are model minorities and will academically outperform other groups.

Prejudice refers to judging and preferring one group to another when individuals prefer to associate with only their own races or ethnic groups due to feeling superiority to other groups.

This is probably a result of prejudice views of others.

Both stereotypes and prejudice involve beliefs and attitudes about other races and ethnic groups.

Racial discrimination is the unfair or differential treatment of individuals and groups based on race and ethnicity.

Discrimination involves treating one group unfairly such as failing to

promote minorities who are just as qualified as the majority group

Racism is the belief that one race is superior to others resulting in unequal

or demoralizing treatment of other races.

Institutional racism involves societal patterns that produce negative treatment against groups of people based on their race.

Racial colorblindness is the idea that ignoring or overlooking racial and

ethnic differences promotes racial harmony.

Racism is the belief that one race is superior to others resulting in unequal

or demoralizing treatment of other races and has been demonstrated by slavery, apartheid, and the holocaust.

Institutional racism involves societal patterns that produce negative treatment against groups of people based on their race.

The national incidents involving Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Dylan Roof, Eric Gardner, and George Floyd established and perpetuated the Black Lives Matter movement and sparked a national conversation about racism.

Hispanics also experience racism in relation to immigration laws and the

larger society.

Racial colorblindness which is the idea that ignoring or overlooking racial and ethnic differences promotes racial harmony often attributes racism to other non-racist factors thus perpetuating the causes of racism.

Diversity is the recognition and respect of the different attributes of races, ethnicities.

Pluralism involves maintaining social equality and distinct cultural characteristics within and among races and ethnicities.

Assimilation is the process in which minority groups lose their distinct

cultural characteristics and are absorbed into the dominant group

early in the formation of the United States.

Some immigrants chose to attempt to blend in with the established culture,

which is an example of assimilation.

These immigrants gave up some of their unique cultural characteristics in order to avoid discrimination.

There were economic advantages to being associated with mainstream America.

Pluralistic societies encourage immigrants to maintain their distinct cultural characteristics and celebrate diversity the recognition and respect of the differences between races and ethnicities.

**Module 2: Social Structures**

This module looks at race and group structure beginning with majority or dominant group.

This is a group that controls the economic, social, political, power, and resources.

On the other hand, a minority group is a disadvantaged group with significantly less economic, social, political, power, and resources.

A majority minority is when a population or district consists of over 50 percent minorities.

White privilege refers to an invisible package of unearned assets held by

Whites.

A majority group is often the largest group within a society that controls the

economic, social, political, power, and resources.

In regards to apartheid in South Africa, the minority whites ruled the government for nearly 50 years ending in 1994.

Hispanics in the U.S. are becoming the majority-minority designated by a population that is greater than 50 percent minority.

In the U.S., minorities have lower educational attainment, poorer health outcomes, and shorter life expectancies.

White privilege is structurally embedded within society although most Whites are unaware of the unearned assets of being White

Peggy Mcintosh's, Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, characterized the privileges as having access to a myriad of resources within an invisible knapsack that are readily available and used but often unknowingly.

Let's consider how race ethnicity and institutional patterns impact the family, education, and health care beginning with key terms.

For our purposes segregation is defined as the separation of groups based on differences such as ethnicity, gender, race, social class, or religion.

Desegregation is the elimination of the policy of segregation by legal and social means.

De facto segregation is segregation that happens by fact rather than requirement.

An affirmative action refers to policies designed to promote educational and job opportunities for minorities and women.

Structural patterns within families of minority groups developed over time due to experiencing disadvantages and discrimination.

The result of these structural patterns is inequalities between whites and minority groups.

One-quarter of Black and Hispanic families are impoverished and may not have access to health care.

Laws passed in segregation have not effectively worked as many urban schools remain segregated.

The quality of inner-city schools for many minority groups is often

substandard compared to the suburban predominantly white schools.

The significant difference in life expectancies may be the most telling

example of the inequalities between Whites and minorities.

How does media reinforce stereotypes of ethnic groups?

Well, model minority group gives us some insights. A model or ideal minority group is defined as an ethnic group that is more academically, economically, and socially successful than other racial minority groups.

Media influences how you perceive different races and ethnic groups

through the use of stereotypes.

For instance, television shows reinforce the misconception of Asian Americans as model minorities.

Hispanics have traditionally been negatively stereotyped or ignored by the media.

Lighter skinned black women are featured more in magazines.

Media plays a key role in the social construction of images such as beauty as

associated with race and ethnicity.

**Module 3: Social Problems**

This module looks at social problems associated with race and ethnicity.

Beginning with key terms, first, institutional discrimination, this is the use of social institutions to deny minority group members access to the benefits of society.

Racial profiling is an action taken against members of a minority group based on those things other than personal behavior.

Institutional discrimination occurs when the majority group uses social institutions against less powerful minority groups in an effort to deny its members full access to the benefits the society.

Racial profiling exemplifies how the blanket application of policy by social

institutions and the racially motivated actions of individuals can have latent or unintended consequences that are discriminatory.

Let's consider internal colonialism specifically. It is defined as the exploitation of a society's minority group by its dominant group.

Apartheid refers to policies regulations and laws implemented by a government to keep

racial and ethnic groups separate.

The examples of South Africa under apartheid and the United States under Jim Crow

help illustrate the range of laws, policies, and rules that are used by a dominant group to control a society's minority group.

Table 15.3.5 in 10.3.1 highlights the disproportionate treatment under apartheid in South Africa.

Module 3 analyzes various forms of population transfer.

Population transfer is the involuntary relocation of a minority group by a

dominant group. Population transfer can be either indirect or direct.

Indirect population transfer is when the minority group population chooses to

leave a location. On the other hand, direct population transfer is when the dominant group makes a minority group population leave a location by force.

Indirect or direct population transfer involves the involuntary movement of a minority group and has occurred throughout human history.

With indirect transfer the minority population willingly moves themselves but under duress because life alongside the dominant group has become so terrible that they have no other choice but to move.

Under direct transfer the dominant group forces the minority population to leave.

Reasons for population transfer are numerous but the end result is that the minority population is forced by the dominant group to move or relocate.

Genocide is the systematic killing of one group by another based on differences of race and or ethnicity. Genocide occurs when one segment of society tries to completely eliminate another segment as a result of differences in race or ethnicity.

From the killing of the Jews by the Nazis during World War II to the murderous rampage of the Hutus against the Tutsis in 1994 in Rwanda, genocide is the most extreme social problem associated with issues of race and ethnicity.

The long-term impact of genocide can be widespread and last for decades.

As a result of the atrocities perpetrated against women during the Rwandan conflict, the international community has agreed to include the use of rape as an act of genocide

**Module 4: The Sociological Imagination**

This module applies the sociological imagination to race and ethnicity beginning with hate crime.

Hate crime is a criminal behavior directed at individuals or groups based on their race ethnicity, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion.

A hate crime is one that is motivated by the racial ethnic religious or sexual bias of the perpetrator. While not a separate category of crime, a hate crime enhances the penalty the perpetrator receives for the crime.

Let's examine the glass ceiling and affirmative action using the sociological imagination.

The glass ceiling refers to social and legal barriers designed to prevent minorities and women from advancing in the workplace.

Affirmative action refers to government policies originally designed to redress the educational, employment, discrimination, experienced by women and minorities.

Those in favor of affirmative action contend that the history of discrimination experienced by minorities and women put them at a disadvantage in the

academic and work world to open the doors of opportunity to minorities and women.

A system of admission and hiring based on maintaining a percentage of people

that meet certain criteria was established.

Those against affirmative action argue that policies based on race and

sex is unfair because they set quotas for admission and hiring based on

physical characteristics and not one's ability.

Such policies penalize non-minorities and men in the present for the actions of others

in the past.

Affirmative action policies have been effective in getting minorities and women into the workplace but they have been less effective in opening avenues to top executive positions.

These policies demonstrate the challenge of maintaining fairness when creating

social policy.

**Module 5: Social Change**

This module examines amalgamation.

Amalgamation is the creation of a new group as a result of the combination of

a minority and majority group.

While historical examples of amalgamation abound, these typically involve the government imposing identification labels on people.

In contemporary society the U.S. Census Bureau for the first time amended their

approach to amalgamation by allowing citizens to self-identify on the 2010 census.

the research of Gordon Allport addresses the consequences of contact between

racial and ethnic groups of equal status. The contact hypothesis is the idea that

prejudice decreases when two groups of equal status come into contact.

According to Allport, there are four conditions that must be in place in a society for the contact hypothesis to be effective.

1. The members of the racial groups must have an equal status in society.
2. The racial groups are working towards a shared goal.
3. There is cooperation between the racial groups.
4. The society's leaders are in support of the goals of the racial group.

The contact hypothesis perspective considers the advantages to a society

when diverse groups come into contact with one another. While this hypothesis has been shown to be valid when different groups encounter each other face to face,

questions abound as to how meeting in cyberspace impacts racial and ethnic relations.

This concludes the PowerPoint for **SociologicalYOU** Chapter 10 where we strive to “connect sociology and YOU!”

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