Although the official title of this course is Latin American Societies, the course will be specifically about **Race and Ethnicity in Latin America**. Any course about Latin American Societies would need to have a specific emphasis if it seeks to go beyond a superficial understanding of the region. Race and ethnicity is an important issue throughout most of Latin America but it is only one of many important issues. The UCLA Department of Sociology has several faculty that specialize in Latin America and they offer courses on special topics about Latin America including development, border issues, social movements and gender and the family.

This course will examine a wide range of issues regarding race and ethnicity in Latin America. It will begin by exploring the basic sociological concepts of race and ethnicity with emphasis on how they are used in the region. Indeed, race and ethnicity have taken on special meanings in Latin America and much of the course will focus on how that came about and how race is manifested. By special meanings, I mean that comparatively race and ethnicity are distinct from other regions, particularly the United States, which most students will be familiar with. Thus, comparisons to the United States will be emphasized in the course as will comparisons across countries within Latin America.

Much of the literature in this area is written by historians and anthropologists and we will read many of their contributions. Work by sociologists on race and ethnicity in Latin America is less common. Although it is increasingly difficult to distinguish disciplinary areas, the contribution by sociologists, where it has occurred, has been particularly comparative, concerned about theoretical issues and often quantitative. These areas will thus be emphasized mostly during lectures since the readings themselves tend to be mostly from historians and especially anthropologists.

Specifically, the lectures will cover much of the material in the instructor’s book *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. The book seeks to understand an enigma of fluid race relations on the “horizontal level” of race relations accompanied by high levels of racial inequality. By the horizontal level, I refer to race mixture as manifested in racial classification, intermarriage and residence, which is much more prevalent than in the U.S. case. I use Brazilian census and survey data to show this. In the past, much of the Brazilian racial fluidity is often attributed to an ideology of race mixture, although many have believed this ideology is not reflected in practice. On the other hand, I also show the high levels of inequality and discrimination that exist throughout the region. The coexistence of fluid horizontal race relations with high levels
of inequality is a paradox, particularly from the eyes of the United States. Thus, a second goal of the book is to systematically compare Brazil (and thus much of Latin America) with the United States.

Some countries will be covered more than others. This is due primarily to the extent of the academic literature available for different nations in the region. Two of the books will be reading this quarter emphasize Peru and Cuba, while the other two are comparative and cover most of the region. Of course, much of the material is often applicable across countries in the region, although there are many national specificities. Lectures will seek to cover the region broadly but will emphasize systematic comparisons with the US and focus largely on the Brazilian case. In an attempt to simplify the diversity of race and ethnicity issues in Latin America, I have sometimes broken readings and lectures down by the Indian/white divide and the black/white divide.

Course Format:

Lectures will follow the usual 75 minute format meeting twice a week and will include limited class participation. I encourage students to ask questions although attendance and participation at the lectures will not be graded. However, you will be responsible for learning the material presented in the lecture. Also, participation at the lectures may help students in their final grade if they are on a borderline between grades.

Given the interest of filmmakers on the topic of our class, I will show four films. I find this media, if done well, to be particularly effective as a teaching tool. I have noted the days for the films and you are responsible for learning the material, as if it were a lecture.

Students in the course will be graded for attendance and participation in the weekly discussion sections. Christina Sue, the teaching assistant for this course, will have separate requirements for the discussion sections. The sections will be worth 20 percent of the grade.

The final grade will be based on the midterm exam (35%), the final exam (45%), and discussion sections (20%). The exams will cover the material in lectures, films and readings. The final exam is cumulative although it will emphasize the second half.

The following is the list of weekly readings. Four books are required for the course and all the course readings will be from those books. The books are:


You should complete the weekly readings for discussion in your section that week. For example, week 2 readings should be completed for your week 2 section. Inasmuch as possible the lectures will be related to the readings but that will not always be the case. I have sought to evenly distribute the readings so there are about 135 pages, on average, per week. In order to be evenly distributed, the lecture content and readings may be out of synch, although by the midterm and by the final, you will see the connections.

Lectures and films are also listed by week, although these are subject to change.

**WEEK 1: Basic Concepts: Race and Ethnicity**
April 4 Lecture: Basic Concepts
April 6 Film: *Race: The Floating Signifier* (60 mins.)

**WEEK 2: Colonialism, Slavery and Early Thought on Race**
April 11 Lecture: The Idea of Race in Latin America,
   Film: *The Vanishing Negro* (30 mins.)
April 13 Lecture: History of Race in Brazil
Required Reading: Andrews, Introduction and Chapters 1-4 (149 pages total)

**WEEK 3: Nationalism and Race**
April 18: content to be determined (probably Nationalism and Race with a film)
April 20 Film: *Mirrors of the Heart: Race and Identity* (60 minutes)
Required Reading: Andrews, Chapters 5-6, De la Fuente Introduction and Chapters 1-2. (140 pages total)

**WEEK 4: Development and Race**
April 25: Lecture: Nationalism, Economic Development and Inequality in Latin America
   April 27: Lecture: Racial Boundaries and Horizontal vs Vertical Relations
   Required Reading: De la Cadena, Introduction, Chapters 1and 2 (130 pages total)

**WEEK 5: Midterm**
May 2: Midterm Review
May 4: Midterm

**Midterm: May 4**

**WEEK 6: Racial Classification and Miscegenation**
May 9: Racial Identity and Classification
May 11: Miscegenation and Intermarriage
Required Reading: De la Cadena Chapters 3-5 (134 pages total)

**WEEK 7: Inequality and Segregation**
May 16: Inequality and Discrimination
May 18: Residential Segregation
Required Reading: De la Cadena Chapter 6, 7, De la Fuente, Chapters 3,4 (129 pages total)

**WEEK 8: The Mexican case**
May 23: Lecture: Race in Mexico
May 25: *The Forgotten Root: La Raiz Olvidada* (50 mins.)
Required Reading: De la Fuente, Chapters 5,6, Postero and Zamosc Chapter 2: (131 pages total)

**WEEK 9: Social Movements**
May 30: Lecture: Race/Ethnic Social Movements and the State
June 1: Film: Out of the silence: fighting for human rights (54 minutes) (Guatemala)
Required Reading: De la Fuente, Chapters 7,8, Postero and Zamosc: Chapters 1, 3 (129 pages total)

**WEEK 10: Human Rights and Social Policy**
June 6: Lecture: Human Rights and Social Policy
June 8: Final Review
Required Reading: Postero and Zamosc Chapters 4-8 (126 pages total)

**Final:** Wednesday, June 14, 2006, 3:00pm-6:00pm
13 lectures
1. Introduction-Concept of Race and ethnicity
2. Idea of Race in Latin America
3. History of Race in Brazil
4. Race in Mexico (Christie-3b and 4 is follow up to La Raiz Olvidada and eugenics)
5. Theory and Race Relations
6. Horizontal vs. Vertical Race-differences between US and Latin America
7. Racial Boundaries in US and Brazil and midterm study
8. Racial Identity and Classification
9. Residential Segregation
10. Intermarriage
11. Inequality and Discrimination
12. The Black Movement in Brazil
13. Public Policy