This course will examine a wide range of issues regarding race and ethnicity in Latin America. These issues include the history of slavery, the eugenics movement and early theorizing on race and more contemporary issues of inequality, racial formation, classification, human rights and social movements. We will cover issues about social relations along the black to white continuum, racial formation of blacks, mulattos, mestizos and whites as well as black and indigenous social movements.

The course is organized around nine books that we will read for each of the nine weekly discussions. The countries covered are diverse and include all of the largest countries in Latin America, although this depends on what research has been done. With the exception of one chapter, notably missing is Mexico, for which little research is available.

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. 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 inevitably be discussed and encouraged to some extent, as will comparisons within Latin America. I expect that as we familiarize ourselves with different cases, much of the discussion will be comparative.

Much of the literature 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 modern social movements and quantitative in method. Thus the course is interdisciplinary by virtue of the readings and welcomes interdisciplinary discussion although the instructor’s perspective tends to be more sociological and will push the sociological perspective with an emphasis on comparisons, theory and evidence.

**Course Evaluation:**
1. Each student will be responsible for reading the weekly assigned book and for submitting a 3-4 page weekly memo.
2. In addition, each student will be the primary discussant on a particular book during one week and secondary discussant in another. For that week, the primary discussant will turn in an extended memo that summarizes the book and make copies for the rest of the class.

3. You will also be graded on your participation in class.

**Weekly Book Assignments:**

Primary Discussant: Jene Slocum
Secondary Discussant: Kelvin White

Primary Discussant: Kelvin White
Secondary Discussant: Socrates Silva

Primary Discussant: Alicia Parise
Secondary Discussant:

Primary Discussant: Chinyere Osuji
Secondary Discussant:

Primary Discussant: Socrates Silva
Secondary Discussant:

Primary Discussant:
Secondary Discussant: Jene Slocum

Primary Discussant:
Secondary Discussant: Alicia Parise

Primary Discussant:
Secondary Discussant: Chinyere Osuji