

**The Evergreen State College**  
**Masters Program in Public Administration**  
SPRING 2011

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**WHY RACE MATTERS**  
SYLLABUS

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CRN 30365 (2 GR)  
May 20, 5-9pm, May 21 and 22, 9am-5pm  
SEM 2 A2107

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**DESCRIPTION**

Why Race Matters is an overview of the history and development of racial definitions: a historical overview of race based programs, exploration of race as a social construct vs. importance of capturing racial data. Students will develop an understanding how racial and ethnic standards are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, who has input into how they are defined and how the categories are used. Students will develop an understanding of differences between race, multiracial issues, ethnicity, and tribal affiliation. Students will explore mechanisms and issues of how individuals are categorized, impacts of undercounting, and the relevance of issues such as health disparities

In an intensive weekend format, we will examine the implications of categorization of race and ethnicity within the role of public policy and management practices in public administration. Class sessions will be a combination of presentations by the instructor, guest speakers, video and class interactive discussions, seminar, and student presentations.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand theoretical underpinnings of race as a social construct vs. the importance of racial categorization and data collection.
2. Understand history and development of racial terms and race based programs.
3. Understand differences between racial, multiracial, ethnicity, and tribal affiliation.
4. Understand U.S. Office of Management and Budget's racial and ethnic standard definitions, and how they are defined and used.
5. Understand the use of racial and ethnic data to identify disparities and inequities and impact public policy and administration.
6. Improve skills in racial equity, diversity, critical thinking, analysis, writing, and speaking.

**EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students are expected to attend all 3 days of class.
2. Students are expected to fully participate in seminar and class discussions.
3. Students are expected to complete all assignments.
4. A self evaluation is required for credit.
5. A faculty evaluation is expected.
6. Students will receive 2 credits at the completion of the course if all course requirements have been successfully completed. Plagiarism (e.g., using other peoples' work as your own), failing to complete one or more assignments, completing assignments late (without having made arrangements before the due date), or absences may be grounds for denial of credit).

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Yanow, Dvora, *Constructing "Race" and "Ethnicity" in America: Category-Making in Public Policy and Administration*, Armonk, NY: M.E.Sharpe, 2003. Paper. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-7656-0801-4; 272pp. (This book is not available at the bookstore. It is available through Amazon or other online resources.)

Additional required reading will be distributed to class by email.

**ADDITIONAL READING**

LaVeist, Thomas A. *Race, Ethnicity, and Health: A Public Health Reader*, Jossey-Bass. 2002.

Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin  
Census 2000 Brief

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>

2010 Census Homepage

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Department of Education, Final Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting, and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Register Vol. 72, No. 202, Friday, October 19, 2007.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20613.pdf>

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Introduction summary. Provide a brief self-introduction summary. Include your interest and experience in the course topic in an email to [janolmstead@gmail.com](mailto:janolmstead@gmail.com) by April 15.
2. Response to *Constructing "Race" and "Ethnicity" in America: Category-Making in Public Policy and Administration* – two pages. Due May 20.
3. Case study—in class assignment
4. Class Presentation
5. Final paper due May 27 submit by email to [janolmstead@gmail.com](mailto:janolmstead@gmail.com)

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENT
April 15	Prior to Class	Provide a self-introduction summary. Include your interest and experience in the course topic in an email to <a href="mailto:janolmstead@gmail.com">janolmstead@gmail.com</a>
May 20 5:00-9:00 pm	Theory, history and context <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Class Introductions</li><li>▪ Syllabus Review; including explanation of research/policy paper and presentations</li><li>▪ Lecture/Discussion</li><li>▪ Seminar</li><li>▪ Short Video</li></ul>	Response to <i>Constructing "Race" and "Ethnicity" in America: Category-Making in Public Policy and Administration</i> —two pages Due May 20
May 21 9:00 am-5:00 pm	Complexity of Racial and Ethnic Definitions and Categorization <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Lecture/Workshop</li><li>▪ Seminar</li><li>▪ Guest Speaker</li><li>▪ Case Study</li><li>▪ Video</li></ul>	Additional reading distributed prior to class convening. Case study/workshop in class
May 22 9:00 am-5:00 pm	Using Racial and Ethnic Data to Identifying Disparities and Inequities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Speaker</li><li>▪ Lecture/Discussion</li><li>▪ Presentations</li></ul>	Class presentations on research/policy paper Evaluations
May 27		Final research/policy paper due by email to <a href="mailto:janolmstead@gmail.com">janolmstead@gmail.com</a>