Race, Ethnicity and Immigration
Minority Group

- A category of people with unequal access to positions of power, prestige, and wealth in a society who tend to be targets of prejudice and discrimination
Minority Status

- Not based on numerical representation:
  - Before Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa, South African blacks suffered the disadvantages of a minority, even though they were a numerical majority of the population.
Racial Slurs

- In 2007, talk radio host Don Imus was fired after he called the players on Rutgers women’s basketball team “nappy-headed hos”
The Social Construction of Race

- **Race** refers to a category of people who are believed to share physical characteristics that are deemed socially significant.
- Racial groups are distinguished on the basis of skin color, hair texture, facial features, and body shape and size.
- Racial categories are based more on social definitions than on biological differences.
What Do You Think?

- Do you think the time will ever come when a racial classification system will no longer be used?
  - Why or why not?
- What arguments can be made for discontinuing racial classification?
- What arguments can be made for continuing it?
Patterns of Racial and Ethnic Group Interaction

- Genocide
- Expulsion or population transfer
- Colonialism
- Segregation
- Acculturation
- Pluralism
- Assimilation
- Amalgamation
Genocide

- Annihilation of an entire nation or people
- Europeans Americans virtually wiped out the indigenous Indian population
- In the 20th century Hitler led the Nazi extermination of 12 million people in the Holocaust
- Stalin is said to be responsible for anywhere from 15-60 million deaths
- In the early 1990s ethnic Serbs attempted to eliminate Muslims from parts of Bosnia
- In 1994 genocide took place in Rwanda when Hutus slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Tutsis
- Currently in the Darfur region of Sudan, the Sudanese government, using Arab janaweed militias, its air force, and organized starvation, is systematically killing the black Sudanese population
Genocide

- In 1994 Hutus in Rwanda committed genocide against the Tutsis, resulting in 800,000 deaths
Expulsion or Population Transfer

- Occurs when a dominant group forces a subordinate group to leave the country or to live only in designated areas of the country.
- The 1830 Indian Removal Act called for the relocation of eastern tribes to land west of the Mississippi River.
Colonialism

- A racial or ethnic group from one society dominates the racial or ethnic group(s) of another society
  - **Examples**: European invasion of North America, British occupation of India
- Puerto Rico is essentially a colony whose residents are U.S. citizens, but they cannot vote in presidential elections unless they move to the mainland
Segregation

- Physical separation of two groups in residence, workplace, and social functions
  - de jure (by law)
  - de facto (in fact)
Segregation in the U S

- Between 1890 and 1910, Jim Crow laws prohibited blacks from using “white” buses, hotels, restaurants, and drinking fountains.
- In 1896 the U S Supreme Court supported de jure segregation by declaring that “separate but equal” facilities were constitutional.
- Beginning in the 1950s various rulings overturned the Jim Crow laws, making it illegal to enforce racial segregation.
Strom Thurmond’s Daughter

- Strom Thurmond was known to oppose the Civil Rights Act of 1957.
- After his death in 2003, Essie Mae Washington-Williams revealed she was his illegitimate daughter, born to a 16-year-old African American maid when Thurmond was 22.
Acculturation

- Refers to adopting the culture of a group different from the one in which a person was originally raised
- Acculturation may involve learning the dominant language and adopting new values and behaviors
Pluralism

- Refers to a state in which racial and ethnic groups maintain their distinctness but respect each other and have equal access to social resources.
- In Switzerland, four ethnic groups—French, Italians, Germans, and Swiss Germans—maintain their distinct cultural heritage and group identity in an atmosphere of mutual respect and social equality.
Assimilation

- The process by which formerly separate groups merge and become integrated as one
  - **Secondary assimilation** occurs when different groups become integrated in public areas and social institutions, such as neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and government
  - **Primary assimilation** occurs when members of different groups are integrated in personal associations, as with friends, family, and spouses
Amalgamation

- When different ethnic or racial groups become married or pair-bonded and produce children
- 19 states had laws banning interracial marriage until 1967, when they were declared unconstitutional
- Since 1960:
  - Number of black-white married couples has increased fivefold
  - Number of Asian-white married couples has increased tenfold
  - Number of Hispanics married to non-Hispanics has tripled
Antimiscegenation Laws

- Laws banning interracial marriage until 1967, when the Supreme Court (in Loving v Virginia) declared these laws unconstitutional
% of U.S. adults who agree "It's all right for Blacks and Whites to date."
US Census Classifications

1790
- Free white males
- Free white females
- Slaves
- Other persons (including free blacks and Indians)

2000:
- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

2010:
- included the sentence: "For this census, Hispanic origins are not races."
Ethnicity

- A shared cultural heritage or nationality
- **Stereotypes** - Exaggerations or generalizations about the characteristics and behavior of a particular group
Ethnicity

- Although President Barack Obama's background is biracial—he is the son of a black Kenyan immigrant father and a white Kansas native mother—he identifies as a black African American.
Perceptions of Race and Ethnic Relations in the U.S., 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Very or Somewhat Good</th>
<th>Very or Somewhat Bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites and blacks</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites and Hispanics</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks and Hispanics</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites and Asians</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the first 100 years all immigrants to the U.S. were allowed to become permanent residents

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act suspended the entrance of the Chinese for 10 years
1917: Immigration Act of 1917 required immigrants to pass a literacy test

1921: Johnson Act limited the number of immigrants who could enter the country each year, with stricter limits for certain countries
1924: Immigration Act further limited the number of immigrants and excluded the Japanese

In 2007 more than 1 in 10 U.S. residents (12.4%) were born in a foreign country
1 in 5 U.S. children is the child of an immigrant
Immigrant Labor

On May 1, 2006, thousands of immigrant workers did not show up for work to show the nation how valuable immigrant labor is for the U.S. economy.

Across the country, businesses closed for day; others experienced high rates of employee absenteeism.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>% of Undocumented Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Latin American countries</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Canada</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other parts of the world</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies Regarding Illegal Immigration

• In 1986 Congress approved the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which made hiring illegal immigrants an illegal act
• In 2005 Wal-Mart agreed to pay a record $11 million to settle charges that it used hundreds of illegal immigrants to clean its stores
• In 2006, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security, apprehended 1.3 million illegal aliens
• In 2007, an immigration reform bill stalled in Congress
• The bill proposed that illegal immigrants could obtain a “Z visa” after paying a $5,000 fine
• The bill also proposed a “point system” that would emphasize immigrants’ education, language, and job skills over family ties in awarding green cards required to be legally employed
Policies Regarding Illegal Immigration

- At least 18 states and more than 25 cities and counties have passed laws and ordinances related to illegal immigration.
- In 2006, Hazelton, Pennsylvania, became the first city to take business licenses away from employers who hire undocumented workers and to fine landlords $1,000 a day for renting to illegal immigrants.
### Preferred Response to Illegal Immigration in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Require them to leave the U.S. and not allow them to return</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require them to leave, but allow them to return temporarily to work</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require them to leave, but allow them to return and become citizens if meet certain requirements</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow them to remain in the U.S. and become citizens if meet certain requirements</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Border” Children

- More than 57,000 children have been caught crossing the United States border alone since October — double last year’s number.
- Government called the surge an “urgent humanitarian situation,”
- Children are escaping violence in Central America—specifically El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Children from Mexico, now make up less than a quarter of the total
What Do You Think?

• Since 2000, 10 states have passed laws permitting certain undocumented students to receive in-state college tuition
• Immigrants’ rights advocates argue it is in the best interest of the United States to help illegal immigrant youth achieve a college education
• Do you think undocumented immigrants should qualify for in-state college tuition? Why or why not?
• What should be done about the “Border Children”? 
Naturalized Citizens

- Immigrants who apply for and meet the requirements for U.S. citizenship
Deportation

- After taking refuge in a Chicago church for 1 year to avoid deportation to Mexico, Elvira Arellano was arrested in California and deported to Mexico, leaving behind her 8-year-old son, a U.S. citizen.
**Structural Functionalist Perspective**

- Racial social inequality was functional for some groups.
- Racial and ethnic inequality aggravates social problems and is dysfunctional for society.
Conflict Perspective

- Economic competition creates and maintains racial and ethnic group tensions
- Minorities who are disproportionately unemployed serve interests of business owners by keeping wages low
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- Meanings and definitions contribute to subordinate status of racial and ethnic groups
- Negative terms associated with "black" (black knight is evil, white knight is good)
- Negative stereotypes of racial and ethnic groups lead to self-fulfilling prophecy
Stereotypes

- Exaggerations or generalizations about the characteristics and behavior of a particular group
What Do You Think?

- Are racial and ethnic jokes insulting and harmful to minority group members?
- Or are such jokes innocent and playful forms of fun?
- Have you ever felt offended by hearing a racial or ethnic joke?
- How did you respond to the joke-teller?
- What about sports mascots? Many are considered to be offensive, especially to American Indian groups. What changes have we seen?
Prejudice and Racism

- **Prejudice**
  - An attitude or judgment, usually negative, about an entire category of people

- **Discrimination**
  - Behaviors toward an entire category of people (generally stemming from prejudice)
Racism

- **Racism**
  - The belief that certain groups or races are innately superior to other groups

- **Aversive racism**
  - Represents a subtle, often unintentional form of discrimination and prejudice exhibited by many well-intentioned white Americans who view themselves as nonprejudiced (color-blind racism)

- **Modern racism**
  - Involves the rejection of traditional racist beliefs but displaces negative racial feelings onto more abstract social and political issues
Perceptions of Racism As a Problem in the United States

![Bar chart showing percentage of Whites and Blacks perceiving racism as very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, and not serious at all.]

- Very serious: Whites 18%, Blacks 49%
- Somewhat serious: Whites 35%, Blacks 48%
- Not too serious: Whites 24%, Blacks 11%
- Not serious at all: Whites 8%, Blacks 3%
In a poll conducted for CNN, respondents were asked, “Do you consider yourself to be in any way racially biased or not?”

13% of whites and 12% of blacks in the CNN poll considered themselves to be racially biased.

What do you think of these data?
“White Power”

- Byron Calvert operates Panzerfaust Records, one of the nation’s largest “white power” music labels
Discrimination

- **Discrimination**
  - Actions or practices that result in differential treatment of categories of individuals

- **Individual discrimination**
  - Occurs when individuals treat persons unfairly or unequally due to their group membership

- **Adaptive discrimination**
  - Discrimination based on prejudice of others

- **Overt discrimination**
  - Individual discriminates because of his or her own prejudice

- **Institutional discrimination**
  - Occurs when normal operations and procedures of social institutions result in unequal treatment of minorities
Discriminatory Housing Practices

- **Redlining**: mortgage companies deny loans for houses in minority neighborhoods
- **Racial steering**: realtors discourage minorities from moving into certain neighborhoods
- **Restrictive home covenants**: illegal pacts between residents that they will not sell or rent their homes to minorities

There was a tacit agreement among all groups... to block off certain areas of cities within "red lines"...
Three Types of Hate Crimes

- Thrill hate crime: committed by offenders who attack victims for the "fun of it"
- Defensive hate crimes: offenders want to send a message
- Mission hate crimes: offenders have committed their lives to bigotry
Hate Crime Incidence by Category of Bias, 2007

- Racial bias: 54.7%
- Ethnicity/national origin: 13.2%
- Religious bias: 17.1%
- Sexual orientation: 14.2%
- Disability: 0.7%

Total number of single-bias hate crimes: 7,160
Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission (EEOC)

- A U S federal agency charged with ending employment discrimination in the United States that is responsible for enforcing laws against discrimination, including Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
Affirmative Action

- A broad range of policies and practices in the workplace and educational institutions to promote equal opportunity as well as diversity
- Data show that White women benefitted the most from affirmative action
Affirmative Action: Pros

- Produces benefits for women, minorities, and the economy
- Employers adopting affirmative action increase number of women and minorities by 10 to 15%
- Has increased percentage of blacks attending college by a factor of three and percentage of blacks in medical school by a factor of four
Affirmative Action: Cons

- Some African Americans argue that it perpetuates feelings of inferiority & unfair judgment from others
- Fails to help the most impoverished of minorities
- Not needed because laws prohibit discrimination
- Some Whites argue ‘reverse discrimination’
What Do You Think?

- Although women are the largest category designated to benefit from affirmative action, a survey of 35 introductory sociology texts published in the 1990s found that 90% did not mention affirmative action in their sections on gender inequality, and only 20% included women in their definitions of affirmative action.
- Why do you think many textbooks overlook the benefits women may receive from affirmative action?
## Percentage of U.S. Adults Who Favor Affirmative Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White women</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White men</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multicultural Education

- Works to dispel myths, stereotypes, and ignorance about minorities, to promote tolerance and appreciation of diversity, and include minority groups in the school curriculum.
- A survey by the Association of American Colleges and Universities found 54% of colleges and universities require students to take at least one course that emphasizes diversity.
More than 600,000 teachers receive Teaching Tolerance magazine—a free resource for tolerance education in the classroom. Other free materials available from the Southern Poverty Law Center include 101 Tools for Tolerance, Responding to Hate at School, and Ten Ways to Fight Hate.
Benefits of Being White

In “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” Peggy McIntosh explores how she was raised to ignore benefits of being white. The goal of the paper is to raise awareness. She mentions some of the following:

- Go shopping without being followed or harassed
- Be assured that my skin color will not convey that I am financially unreliable when I use checks or credit cards
- Avoid being asked to speak for all the people of my racial group
- I am not pulled over by police officers for no reason
- I can buy Band-Aids in a color that matches my skin
What Do You Think?

- Do you think the U.S. federal government should offer an official apology to African Americans for the slavery and legal segregation that occurred in the past?
- Do you think African Americans should receive monetary or other reparations?
- Why or why not?