CHAPTER 1
Read Chapter One (Due Thursday)
Blackboard - course documents - Harris, Zinn - Omi, Winant

Race - Category of human beings with distinctive physical characteristics - passed down from one generation to the next.
Native American (1.2%), Asian (5.3%), Native Hawaiian (0.2%), Caucasian/white (68%-77%), African American (13.2%), 2 or more (2.4%)

Ethnicity - Cultural characteristics (Language, religion, food, clothing, traditions, music, holidays)
Hispanic (17%)

Ethnic work - Activities you do to enhance your ethnic identity

Dominant Group - Group in society that has more power (usually the larger group but not always) - White/Caucasian
Minority Group - Group in society that has less power - Face unequal treatment - anyone that’s not white

Social Construct - Society gives meaning to race

Racism
1. Belief that races are culturally/socially different - one better than other
2. Practice of subordinating races (prejudice)

Social Construction of Race / superiority - inferiority
→ Given meaning to race
• After 1492-1609 → Europeans → Native Americans (non-christian therefore not as good)

* The need for labor
• 1609-1610 - Starving time in Virginia (resorted to cannibalism) - Discovered tobacco
• Enslave Native Americans - not successful - the colonists didn’t know the land and the native americans can fight back - Lots of Native Americans
• Indentured Servants - temporary - too few of them - poor workers
• 1619 - Jamestown - 20 African Slaves were brought

Rich Planter Class (7% owned 70% of slaves)
Concentration of income/weather in hands of few

1660's - Slave Codes - Laws - applied to reinforce difference between Africans and others
One Drop Rule - One drop of black blood = you are considered black
upper-class people buy the houses cheap, knock them down, and build a more expensive house. The property values go up, and the original inhabitants of the neighborhood are displaced and relocated.

Theories of racism/discrimination:

- **Microaggressions** are small/daily insults or slights. They are questions that are not meant to be aggressive, but they set people apart. They are said out of ignorance. It’s casual degradation of any marginalized group. *This could be race based, religious based, class based, sexual orientation based, etc. Any marginalized group.* Microaggressions can have a psychological impact on a person, because it makes them feel that they are “other-than,” not part of the group. An example of this would be someone asking someone of another race what their first language was, or telling them how well they speak English. This is basically telling them that they are foreign or alien.

- **Systemic racism** includes racist practices, microaggressions, imbalances of power (historically and contemporarily,) and unjustly gained economic or political power at the expense of the minority group.

- **Structural racism** is when structures in society (institutions) limit or deny people access or opportunity. These structures work together. Your housing impacts which schools your children will go to, which hospitals are near you, job, infrastructure (bus lines, etc.) This is an example of societal structures working together.

- **Scientific/biological racism** is using science or biology to justify racist practices. These methods are used to say that dominant groups are biologically superior to minority groups.

- **Cultural racism** says that groups suffer a lack of success due to poor behavior or cultural practices. It says that if a group is not succeeding, it is because of cultural traits.

Conflict theory is a Marxian theory about a struggle between Haves and Have-nots over scarce resources. How do Haves get power? What do Have-nots do to try to get power?

Racial formation → the socio-historical process by which race is created, transformed and destroyed.

Cultural racism → the differences between people, or how successful they are, points to a cultural difference. Success is defined by income or educational opportunities. Caucasians have nearly 20X more wealth than any other group. Using the cultural perspective, you would look at cultural factors to determine why they are more successful. We use cultural racism as an explanation for why some groups are inferior, based on their culture.
Cultural Appropriations
Adoption or use of elements of one culture by members of a different culture (usually dominant group). → Viewed as a negative aspect.

Cultural Exchange
Mutual understanding/appreciation
Invitations

Colorism
The idea that lighter skin is better
Skin color stratification - layering - inequality / hierarchy
Where lighter people have more access and opportunities to life chances - education, jobs, housing, income, decreased sentences in prison
Light skinned women → beauty (skin bleaching, hair straightening)
Skin Color Privilege → lighter skin is more valuable/beautiful/better than dark skin
Pigmentocracy - Lighter is better
Social distance scale - What kinds of people you’re comfortable with (would you marry someone of a different race/ethnic background)

History of colorism
Slavery → white skin was advantage (lighter skin for Africans / mixed people would have privileges)
Asia → light skin = leisure time
Darker skin → lower class / doing outside work

Chapter 8

EXAM #2 on the 29th - Chapters 4, 5, 8

History - Housing
WW1 - 1914-1918 → increase in the need for labor → mark the start of the Great Migration →
The mass migration of African Americans out of the south to the more industrialized north (Jim Crow, Violence, Lynchings, KKK in the south)
The Depression happened → Labor declines → Great Migration declines
WW2 - 1939-1945
(FILM - A Breath Of Freedom)