

SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Melissa Latimer, West Virginia University
Soc/ A 135 Section 1
Discussion Questions

Any of the **bold** terms from the Doob book could be on the exam. In addition here are a few more terms either from lectures or not in bold print in the books.

1. survival of the fittest
2. manifest destiny
3. four conditions of internal colonialism
4. three conditions necessary for racial stratification to occur
5. blaming the victim
6. scapegoat
7. compadres
8. Bureau of Indian Affairs
9. three reasons why slavery was more efficient than indentured servants
10. proposition 187
11. the Moynihan Report
12. three criticisms of the Moynihan Report
13. ethnic category versus ethnic collective
14. either/or dichotomous thinking

Potential Essay Questions

1. List and define the characteristics of an ethnic group (there were 5 listed). Explain the connection between ethnic inequality and racism.
2. In class I covered 3 basic theories of prejudice and discrimination (psychological theories, normative theories, and power/conflict theories). Show how 2 of these perspectives explain the existence and persistence of prejudice and discrimination in our society. Which theory do **you** think best explains racism? Why?
3. What is the essential biological meaning of "race"? Why is there such little agreement on racial categories? List and define the 3 major categories physical anthropologists have designated. What is it that most researchers agree upon in terms of race? What has been the most troublesome aspect of the idea of race?
4. What does it mean to argue that **both** people of color and white people live racially structured lives? Why is it so important to look at the "racialness" of white experience? What's the effect of naming "whiteness"? Does every white person have the same experience of whiteness (why or why not)? What is meant by "white privilege" (be sure to include an example in your definition).
5. According to my lecture from "Lies My Teacher Told Me", how is history presented in textbooks? James Lowen argues that history textbooks contribute to our misunderstanding of race relations. List and explain two pieces of information that **we learn**, and 3 pieces **we do not learn** in textbooks that contributes to our miseducation about race relations. What does he mean when he argues that textbooks have underplayed white racism and neglected racial idealism (use

examples to support your answer)? What are some long term consequences of these omissions?

6. According to the film "Ethnic Notions" what are some of the purposes of caricatures of African Americans? In other words, how did it make white Americans feel to see "Sambos", "mammies", "Zip Coons", etc.? Why did the caricature of the brute African American male surface during/ after reconstruction? What image developed in the North as African Americans began a massive migration to urban cities? Do you see any similar images about Black men today? Why were/ are cartoons utilized so much in promoting images of black Americans? What does it mean to say Black actors/actresses experienced a "catch 22" situation in Hollywood? What are the consequences of these images on whites and African Americans?

7. Why is it so important to study language in a class on race relations, gender inequality, etc.? List and explain 6 major ways that language expresses/shapes our views of race (this is from my lecture on Robert Moore's article "Racist Stereotyping in the English Language").

8. According to my lecture, what's the difference between pornography and erotica? What are the similarities and the differences in the ways white and black women are portrayed in porn? What are the images of women and men of color in porn and how do these images nourish and promote racism?

9. What is meant by assaultive or hate speech? How is this different from dissent? What has been the typical reaction to incidents defined as hate speech? Why is a historical perspective so important in understanding the power of hate speech? How do issues of power confound the notion of free speech?

10. According to my lecture on racial/ethnic humor, why do people tell racial/ethnic jokes? Why do oppressed groups tell racial/ethnic jokes about the dominant group?

11. According to Manning Marable "The Black Male: Searching Beyond Stereotypes"), what is the essential tragedy of being Black and male? What has been the only acceptable social behavior of any Black male? What has been one of the major problems in historical work on black families (and other families of color)? What are some of the economic realities facing black males? What are some of the consequences of these social and economic realities?

12. Patricia Hill Collins focuses on the importance of self-definitions. According to Collins, why do dominant groups suppress knowledge produced by any oppressed group? List and explain the three major ways black women have been controlled. Explain the concept of "outsider-within" and its significance. What does she mean by deconstruction?

13. Patricia Hill Collins lists and defines 4 major stereotypes that have been applied to African American women. First, what are the objectives or purposes of stereotypes? Second, list and define these 4 images and what behaviors/actions these stereotypes have justified (what's the different purpose of each of these stereotypes).

SAMPLE STUDY TERMS & QUESTIONS
Melissa Latimer, West Virginia University
Study Terms and Questions
Race Relations Exam 2

Any of the **bold** terms from the Doob book could be on the exam. In addition here are a few more terms either from lectures or not in bold print in the books.

NAAWP
biological determinism
craniometry
monogenists
polygenists
The Civil Rights Act of 1964
The Voting Rights Act

What are the assumptions about "intelligence" and mental capacities behind IQ tests?

According to Doob, how successful have African Americans been in terms of political representation? What factors increase their chances of success?

What's the significance of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in terms of educational opportunities for African Americans?

Essay Questions

1. What does Patricia Hill Collins mean by Black Feminist Thought? What are some of the core themes in this perspective? What are some of the factors that can differentiate the experiences of African American women? Who can produce blackfeminist thought? What does she argue should be the role of black men, white women and men, and other people of color?
2. List and explain the 3 different waves of the Ku Klux Klan (i.e., when and why they developed). What's different about the ideology and image presented by David Duke and in some of the hate literature I provided for you today compared to the messages of hate groups in the past? What's the purpose of violence against minorities?
3. Using my lecture list and explain five of the major structural factors contributing to the development of hate groups and hate crimes within the U.S. and other countries. Who are the Skinheads? What is the National Alliance? What two major documents has this group used to recruit new members?
4. What are some of the basic conclusions Gould makes about science in his book "The Mismeasure of Man"? What were some of the problems Gould found with Morton, Broca, and Spitzka's work after he reanalyzed their original data sets?
5. What was Binet's original purpose in creating an IQ test? How is this different from what the eugenicists advocated after his death? What are some of the problems with IQ tests (in terms of

what they measure, how the results are interpreted and explained)? What do the major comprehensive studies of differences in IQs of African American and whites actually conclude?

6. Give statistics that support the assertion that racial minorities particularly African American males are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. According to both Doob and Mauer, what are the factors contributing to the disproportionate involvement of African American men in the criminal justice system? What are some of the long term consequences of this situation? What can we do to try to change this situation?

7. According to Doob, who or what are the factors contributing to continued residential segregation? What's the effect of education or income on decreasing residential segregation? What are some of the long term economic and occupational consequences of residential segregation?

8. Show how racism creeps into the job attainment process from the initial job-candidate stage, to the job-screening stage, to finally the job-promotion stage.

9. According to William C. Brooks, what are some of the major factors affecting the occupational opportunities of African American men? What does he suggest can be done to help African American individually and collectively pursue satisfying and productive careers? What does Affirmative Action achieve? What needs to proceed and follow Affirmative Action?

10. How did enslavement change the basic relationship between work and motherhood for African American women? List and explain the 3 ways controlling African American women's reproduction was important in maintaining gender, race, and class inequality. How did domestic labor change with urbanization? What characteristics or patterns of behavior were expected of domestic workers that show the exploitative character of domestic work? Why is using the traditional middle class American measure inappropriate for measuring African American women's work and family experiences?

11. List and explain the 5 enduring themes that characterize a Black woman's standpoint on Black motherhood. Why is the type of parenting that African American women do considered revolutionary?

12. According to Doob, what are some of the significant factors affecting racial minorities access to education? What is Proposition 48? What was its original purpose? What are some of the consequences? Why is this NCAA rule so problematic?

13. According to Patricia Hill Collins what are the 4 major characteristics of a Eurocentric masculinist epistemology? List and explain the four main components of an Afrocentric Feminist epistemology?

14. List and explain three myths concerning Affirmative Action. Using information from class readings or lectures show why these myths are untrue.

15. List and explain 5 criteria for an Affirmative Action hire. Why does Affirmative Action have such a limited effect in reducing occupational and educational racial inequality?

SAMPLE FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE
Melissa Latimer, West Virginia University
Study Questions Final Exam
Race Relations
Summer 1995

1. According to Ronald Taylor, how has the ideology concerning the poor and solutions to poverty changed from the 1930s to the ideas promoted in the 70s and still today? Why does he think earlier attempts to reduce poverty have had a limited impact? What are some of the consequences of limited education and employment changes, and high poverty rates on African American men? What does the concept "most helped/most harmed" refer to and mean?
2. According to my lecture on the relationship between African American women and men, what are the factors contributing to black male-female conflict? Explain each of these factors. Do these factors affect African American relationships only?
3. According to Patricia Hill Collins, how does current gender and race ideology (sexism and racism) affect the relationship between black women and men, black women and white women, and heterosexual black women and black lesbians?
4. Using Patricia Hill Collins explain what is meant by sex, gender, and sexual politics. What's the significance of sexual politics? Show how pornography, prostitution, and rape as a tool of sexual violence have been key to shaping the sexual politics of Black womanhood.
5. According to Jones and Christmas, what are some of the structural factors that have contributed to increased homelessness (particularly for African American women and men) in the U.S.? What are some of the solutions they suggest for change?
6. What is it about AIDS that makes it so hard for people to change their immediate behavior? How has intense homophobia within the black community affected the spread of AIDS among black gay and bisexual men as well as the heterosexual community? What is it about intravenous drug users (IVDUs) that increases the rate of HIV infection? Why does Bowser predict AIDS cases related to heterosexual contact might increase in the upcoming years? What type of solutions does Bowser make for change?
7. What are some of the long term health consequences of race and ethnicity?
8. According to Bowser what group of black men do we know the most about and why? What are some of the consistent findings in research on black men's sexuality? What is problematic about comparing the sexuality of middle class blacks to middle class whites? What's the alternative explanation offered by Bowser for black men's strong emphasis on sexuality and violence? How is this different from the messages we get in the media about black men's sexuality?
9. What is it about having a low socioeconomic status that contributes to more health problems (list and explain at least 5)?

10. What are several of the consequences of racism on "white" people? What do "white" people lose by participating in a racist social system (list and explain at least 5)?
11. List and explain 5 major factors contributing to anger in black males. List and explain some of the major consequences of black male's anger? What does Gibbs suggest could be done to help diffuse this anger and its potential consequences?
12. According to Majors et al, what is the "cool pose"? What purposes does it serve? What are some of the positive and negative consequences of the "cool pose"? What do Majors et al suggest for initiating change?

SAMPLE EXAMINATION

Melissa Latimer, West Virginia Univeristy
Soc/A 135 Exam 1

Name:

Part 1

Define 10 of the following 15 terms. Each term is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points. Good luck.

1. minority group
2. prejudice
3. discrimination
4. racism
5. stereotype
6. self-fulfilling prophecy
7. four conditions of internal colonialism
8. ethnocentrism
9. manifest destiny
10. Social Darwinism
11. blaming the victim
12. normification
13. compadres
14. the Moynihan Report
15. either/or dichotomous thinking

Part 2

Answer 7 of the following short essay questions. Each essay is worth 10 points for a total of 70 points.

1. List and define the characteristics of an ethnic group (there were 5 listed). Explain the connection between ethnic inequality and racism.

2. In class I covered 3 basic theories of prejudice and discrimination (psychological theories, normative theories, and power/conflict theories). Show how 2 of these perspectives explain the existence and persistence of prejudice and discrimination in our society. Which theory do **you** think best explains racism? Why?
3. Why is it so important to study language in a class on race relations, gender inequality, etc.? List and explain 6 major ways that language expresses/shapes our views of race (this is from my lecture on Robert Moore's article "Racist Stereotyping in the English Language").
4. What is the essential biological meaning of "race"? Why is there such little agreement on racial categories? List and define the 3 major categories physical anthropologists have designated. What is it that most researchers agree upon in terms of race? What has been the most troublesome aspect of the idea of race?
5. According to my lecture, what's the difference between pornography and erotica? What are the similarities and the differences in the ways white and black women are portrayed in porn? What are the images of women and men of color in porn and how do these images nourish and promote racism?
6. What is meant by assaultive or hate speech? How is this different from dissent? What has been the typical reaction to incidents defined as hate speech? Why is a historical perspective so important in understanding the power of hate speech? How do issues of power confound the notion of free speech?
7. What does it mean to argue that **both** people of color and white people live racially structured lives? Why is it so important to look at the "racialness" of white experience? What's the effect of naming "whiteness"? Does every white person have the same experience of whiteness? What is meant by "white privilege" (be sure to include an example in your definition).
8. According to my lecture on racial/ethnic humor, why do people tell racial/ethnic jokes? Why do oppressed groups tell racial/ethnic jokes about the dominant group?
9. According to Manning Marable "The Black Male: Searching Beyond Stereotypes"), what is the essential tragedy of being Black and male? What has been the only acceptable social behavior of any Black male? What has been one of the major problems in historical work on black families (and other families of color)? What are some of the economic realities facing black males? What are some of the consequences of these social and economic realities?
10. Patricia Hill Collins focuses on the importance of self-definitions. According to Collins, why do dominant groups suppress knowledge produced by any oppressed group? List and explain the three major ways black women have been controlled. Explain the concept of "outsider-within" and its significance. What does she mean by deconstruction?

Part 3

Everyone must answer this final essay. It is worth 10 points.

1. Patricia Hill Collins lists and defines 4 major stereotypes that have been applied to African American women. First, what the objectives or purposes of stereotypes? Second, list and define these 4 images and what behaviors/ actions these stereotypes have justified (what's the different purpose of each of these stereotypes).

SAMPLE EXAMINATION
Melissa Latimer, West Virginia Univeristy
Race Relations Exam 2

Name:

Answer 10 of the following terms or short questions. Each one is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points. Good luck.

1. power
2. authority
3. triple jeopardy
4. phantom acceptance
5. block busting
6. racial economy
7. biological determinism
8. monogenists
9. domestic terrorism
10. La Raza Unida
11. What are the 3 basic forms of political repression that exist in our society today?
12. How does having a hate group serve the needs of the dominant group and at the same time threaten that dominance?
13. What happens to a racist ideology supported by the KKK when it joins up with a fascist ideology?
14. What are the assumptions about "intelligence" and mental capacities behind IQ tests?
15. What's the significance of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education and the 1964 Civil Rights Act in terms of educational opportunities for African Americans?

Answer 4 of the following 6 essay questions. Each one is worth 20 points for a total of 80 points.

1. List and explain the 3 different waves of the Ku Klux Klan (i.e., when and why they developed). What's different about the ideology and image presented by David Duke and in some of the hate

literature I provided for you today compared to the messages of hate groups in the past? What's the purpose of violence against minorities? What has been found to be an effective way to fight the Klan?

2. Give statistics that support the assertion that racial minorities particularly African American males are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. According to both Doob and Mauer, what are the factors contributing to the disproportionate involvement of African American men in the criminal justice system? What are some of the long term consequences of this situation? What can we do to try to change this situation?

3. According to Doob, who or what are the factors contributing to continued residential segregation? What's the effect of education or income on decreasing residential segregation? What are some of the long term economic and occupational consequences of residential segregation? Show me how racism creeps into the job attainment process from the initial job-candidate stage, to the job-screening stage, to finally the job-promotion stage.

4. What was Binet's original purpose in creating an IQ test? How is this different from what the eugenicists advocated after his death? What are some of the problems with IQ tests (in terms of what they measure, how the results are interpreted and explained)? What do the major comprehensive studies of differences in IQs of African American and whites actually conclude?

5. How did enslavement change the basic relationship between work and motherhood for African American women? List and explain the 3 ways controlling African American women's reproduction was important in maintaining gender, race, and class inequality. How did domestic labor change with urbanization? What characteristics or patterns of behavior were expected of domestic workers that show the exploitative character of domestic work? Why is using the traditional middle class American measure inappropriate for measuring African American women's work and family experiences?

6. List and explain the 5 enduring themes that characterize a Black woman's standpoint on Black motherhood. Why is the type of parenting that African American women do considered revolutionary?

7. According to Doob, what are some of the significant factors affecting racial minorities access to education? What is Proposition 48? What was its original purpose? What are some of the consequences? Why is this NCAA rule so problematic?

SAMPLE EXAMINATION
Melissa Latimer, West Virginia Univeristy
Final Exam Race Relations

Name:

Please answer two of the following 3 essay questions. Each one is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points.

1. What is it about having a low socioeconomic status that contributes to more health problems (list and explain at least 5)?
2. What are several of the consequences of racism on "white" people? What do "white" people lose by participating in a racist social system (list and explain at least 5)?
3. According to Patricia Hill Collins, how does current gender and race ideology (sexism and racism) affect the relationship between black women and men, black women and white women, and heterosexual black women and black lesbians?

Please answer 4 of the following 6 essay questions. Each one is worth 20 points for a total of 80 points.

1. According to Ronald Taylor, how has the ideology concerning the poor and solutions to poverty changed from the 1930s to the ideas promoted in the 70s and still today? Why does he think earlier attempts to reduce poverty have had a limited impact? What are some of the consequences of limited education and employment changes, and high poverty rates on African American men? What does the concept "most helped/most harmed" refer to and mean?
2. Using Patricia Hill Collins explain what is meant by sex, gender, and sexual politics. What's the significance of sexual politics? Show how pornography, prostitution, and rape as a tool of sexual violence have been key to shaping the sexual politics of Black womanhood.
3. What are some of the long term health and housing consequences of race and ethnicity? What is it about AIDS that makes it so hard for people to change their immediate behavior? How has intense homophobia within the black community affected the spread of AIDS among black gay and bisexual men as well as the heterosexual community? What is it about intravenous drug users (IVDUs) that increases the rate of HIV infection? Why does Bowser predict AIDS cases related to heterosexual contact might increase in the upcoming years?
4. List and explain 5 major factors contributing to anger in black males. List and explain some of the major consequences of black male's anger? What does Gibbs suggest could be done to help diffuse this anger and its potential consequences?
5. According to Majors et al, what is the "cool pose"? What purposes does it serve? What are some of the positive and negative consequences of the "cool pose"? What do Majors et al suggest for

initiating change?

6. According to Bowser what group of black men do we know the most about and why? What are some of the consistent findings in research on black men's sexuality? What is problematic about comparing the sexuality of middle class blacks to middle class whites? What's the alternative explanation offered by Bowser for black men's strong emphasis on sexuality and violence? How is this different from the messages we get in the media about black men's sexuality?