

**Lecture Notes:**

- ① What is “race?”
- term has been in English language since the 1500s, but is now scientifically discredited, though many still believe it...
  - traditionally, races were: white (Caucasian), black (Negroid), yellow (Asian or Mongoloid), red (Native American)
  - it is a socially constructed category that specifies rules for group membership based on physical characteristics
  - it has usually been used to ideologically justify relationships of superiority and exploitation
  - **prejudice** (a factually unjustified attitude) vs. **discrimination** (inequitable behavior based on such attitudes)
- What is “ethnicity?”
- a social group’s (perceived or actual) shared identity is based on sets of **ethnic markers**, which include: physical characteristics, territoriality, history, language, customs, beliefs, norms, traditions, culture (symbols and artifacts)
  - boundary maintenance is maintained between members
  - membership has been historically considered mutually exclusive
  - ethnic groups are usually transgenerational and biologically self-perpetuating
  - membership may sometimes be acquired through marriage or other socially approved routes
  - boundaries are not maintained through isolation, but through social processes of exclusion and incorporation
- ③ **panethnic group**: social grouping, usually externally designated, that lumps several ethnic categories together based on historical or regional proximity
- Caucasian or European-American; African-American; Hispanic; Native American; Asian and Pacific Islander
  - who maintains important ethnic identities within their panethnic groups?
  - there have been several waves of immigration in US history
- ④ Origins of ethnic stratification
- forms of contact
    - **conquest**: one group achieves political or economic control over another through conflict or competition
    - **annexation**: political control over a geographical region containing all or part of a society is transferred
    - **primitive migration**: occurs when people cannot cope with natural or climatic forces
    - **impelled or forced migration**: occurs usually because of political pressures
    - **free migration**: is when individual choice is the deciding factor to move
    - **group or mass migration**: in which many sharing a common characteristic (often ethnicity or religion) relocate
    - **population redistribution or internal migration**: occurs as people move from one area to another
  - consequences of contact can only be one of **three** outcomes
    - subordination of native population by more powerful migrant group
    - subordination of migrant population by indigenous ethnic group
    - equal coexistence by equally powerful migrant and indigenous groups
- ⑤ American ethnic hierarchy
- US has a three-tier hierarchy
    - 1 Americans of European extraction and Protestant religious beliefs (WASPs)
    - 2 Euro-American Catholics, Jews of various national origin, some Asian Americans
      - ethnicity decreasingly influences social life and distribution of resources
      - boundaries between tiers two and one are disappearing
    - 3 ethnic groups are often defined in quasi-racial terms: African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, some Asian Americans
  - this ethnic hierarchy is reinforced by five factors:
    - 1 place of the group in society’s economic hierarchy
    - 2 place of the group in society’s political power structure
    - 3 place of the group in society’s social or prestige hierarchy
    - 4 their degree of social interaction with members of the dominant group
    - 5 extent to which prejudice and discrimination remain significant for the group

- ⑥ Where is America going and which will be the future?
- **charter group**: first group to enter previously unpopulated territory and so subsequently retains many privileges and prerogatives, including rights of inclusion and entitlement for later arrivals
- 1 **assimilationism**: perspective that later arrivals should conform to dominant group's existing culture and practices, thus creating one homogeneous and inclusive society
  - 2 **ethnocentrism**: perspective that our society may come to be populated by many varied subcultures, but that one's own culture is the standard against which others should be measured
  - 3 **multiculturalism**: perspective that our society may come to be populated by many varied subcultures in which each are acknowledged, respected and tolerant of one another's differences
- if the latter, how far should this be allowed to go? Holidays, language, customs, etc...

**Key Ideas:**

Race, ethnicity, panethnic group, assimilationism, ethnocentrism, multiculturalism, ghettoization.

