

Race and Education

Course Information

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This course is targeted toward freshman or sophomore honors education majors. However, all honors freshman and sophomores can take the course as well. This course is targeted toward education majors because it's important to have a clear understanding regarding prominent issues that affect and have always affected students learning in the classrooms prior to the start of your career training. Also, it is important that other majors take this course their freshman or sophomore year because learning about inequality based on race can be applied in almost all other majors and career paths. This course is targeted specifically at honors students because it requires the students to have a mature, curious mind that is eager to discuss and learn about controversial issues.

Course Description

This course is used to demonstrate how a person's race negatively affects their access to an equal education in the past and in today's school systems. This course will look into three major groups: Native Americans, African Americans, and Latin Americans. We will discuss the history of discrimination and segregation in the school systems among these three groups and how this still affects their access to an equal education today. Specifically, we will focus on the effects of Indian boarding schools on Latin Americans, Brown v. Board of Education on African Americans, and immigration on Latin Americans. Overall, by the end of the course the students will have a clear understanding about how these three groups are still given an unequal education today because of the events and prejudice that existed in the past.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: *Native Americans*

BIG Question: In what ways have Native Americans received unequal education and how does this affect their lives today?

Argument of the Unit:

Native Americans receive unequal education throughout the late 1800s and 1900s because they were forced into boarding schools that made the students abandon their culture and their families in order to assimilate them into the normal white American society. This still affects their lives today because some boarding schools still exist that have more positive qualities than bad and Native American students are still negatively impacted in public schools in some ways because of their race.

Key Words: Assimilation, The Dawes Act, The Carlisle School, Reservations, 1868 Treaty with Navajo

Source #1: [Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools](#)

Explanation of Source: This educational film from PBS describes the lives of Native American children as they were forced into unsafe, abusive boarding schools that stripped them away from their families. The video points out that the goal of white Americans was to completely exterminate the

Indian culture by forcing their children into schools that tried to teach them how to be “normal” American citizens. However, the film stresses the fact that these schools were not like normal American schools because they were filled with violence, disease, abuse, and punishments. This film is a good resource for this class because it gives a clear understanding about what life was like for Native Americans during the late 1800s and 1900s. It helps students to understand how being a Native American affected, and still affects their right to an equal education. Additionally, the film shows what Indian boarding schools are like today and how Native Americans are still treated somewhat unequally in regular public schools. This source is useful for this course because it connects the unequal educational opportunities for Native Americans in the past to the education of Native Americans today.

Source #2: *American Indian Boarding Schools*

Explanation of Source: This website from the Digital Public Library of America displays Native American life in the boarding schools through photographs and old documents from the late 1800s and early 1900s. This website points out the fact that all Native American children were treated the same and had the same expectations in every boarding school. The goal of white citizens was for the Native Americans to become as close to the average white American as they could be. The author of this website puts these images together in order to get a clear understanding of assimilation and highlight the fact that these students were not given an equal education. This article is a good resource for this course because the images and documents allow students to see how the education of these children differed from normal American education. It allows them to see how the purpose of these schools was to change these Native Americans into white Americans rather than giving them a quality education.

Source #3: *"Friends of the Indians"*

Explanation of Source: This chapter from the book called *The Quest for Citizenship: African American and Native American education in Kansas* by Kim Warren describes the intentions of reformers to train the Native Americans on how to become citizens and completely exterminate their religion and culture through schooling. The chapter points out that the reformers said to have an ideology that expresses freedom and equality, however, at the same time they continued to reinforce racial hierarchies that greatly affected the native americans, especially their education. The author of this book stresses the fact that the only time white society wanted to take action to give more equality to the Native Americans was when it benefited them in some way. This book is a good resource for this course because it discusses a lot about the ideologies and reasons white reformers had for Native American education and how this unequal education took away Native American culture from their lives.

Source #4: *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*

Explanation of Source: This source is a website from the Heard museum that describes the exhibits featured in the museum and the background behind them. This specific exhibit from this museum that is useful for this course is the exhibit titled, “Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories.” This exhibit allows students to see how being forced away from their homes and into boarding schools affected the individual lives of the Native Americans. It is a good source to see first hand the individual impacts these schools had on the rest of the children's lives. It includes several photographs of the children as well as original paintings that were drawn by these children while they were at these boarding schools. This article is a good resource for students to connect with certain individual Native American experiences and it specifically shows what they went through and how they felt about it.

Unit 2: African Americans

BIG Question: In what ways have African Americans received unequal education and how does this affect their lives today?

Argument of the Unit: African Americans have received unequal education because of segregated school systems in the past that still negatively affect the school systems today. Today, African Americans still receive less resources in school and are ultimately set up with less opportunities which affect the rest of their lives. This issue is not being resolved because the majority of people fail to realize that our school systems are still somewhat unequal for African American students.

Key Words: Brown vs Board of Education, Segregation, the “Bottoms,” Sharecropping, Transatlantic Slave Trade

Source #1: [School Desegregation](#)

Explanation of Source: This chapter from the book *School Desegregation: Oral Histories Toward Understanding the Effects of White Domination* by George Noblit describes how a certain individual named Chip and his family experienced segregation in and outside of school while growing up in the 1900s. The article points out that at this time filled with extreme racism, having a separate school from the white community allowed Chip to be in a community of his own where he felt like he belonged. However, once African American children were integrated into regular white public schools, he realized that the school itself was a lot nicer and he had the ability to receive a better education than he did when he went to an all black school. On the other hand, there was still a lot of racial discrimination within the integrated schools and the author stresses the fact that the African Americans were still receiving unequal education. This article is a good resource for the course because it allows the students to see this segregation from an individual African Americans point of view. Also, the chapter gives many specific details and examples of how African Americans were still treated unequally in the integrated schools and how this affected their education.

Source #2: [The National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

Explanation of Source: This source is a website from the National Museum of African American History and Culture that describes specific exhibits featured in their museum and their significance to African American history. This website points out that the exhibits show the struggles of African Americans to obtain citizenship through many different ways such as through famous leaders, individual experiences, and art. These exhibits highlight the extreme struggle and segregation that these people went through in order to be treated equally simply because of their skin color. This museum is a good resource for this course because it gives a full understanding of what African Americans went through from the beginning in order for them to get where they are today. It is important to be able to actually see what African American life was like in order to fully understand the impact that white society had on them. Also, this source is helpful to the class because it allows them to see how African Americans were treated unequally inside and outside of the classroom.

Source #3: Separate and Unequal

Explanation of Source: This short film from PBS describes how African Americans are still treated unequally in schools today. The film points out that African Americans are blamed for causing violence and decreased education in Baton Rouge county schools. The county is somewhat getting away with segregation because they are dividing the schools based on communities rather than race, but the communities are mostly separated by race to begin with. The film stresses the fact that if these schools are separated, it will take away most of the school districts diversity and it will reinforce the idea of racial segregation. This source is important because it shows how this long history of African American segregation and discrimination still affects thousands of families today and more specifically, how their education is affected. The film will help the students to see the extent to which segregation still occurs today and how it is continuing to affect the education of African American students.

Source #4: Unequal Opportunity: Race and Education

Explanation of Source: This article written by Linda Darling-Hammond describes how minorities are having increasingly unequal opportunities and the majority of society have failed to see this. The article points out that the previous segregation of schools based on race negatively affected the lives of minorities and ultimately set their lives up with less opportunities than white Americans have. Since the segregated schools receive less funding and hired less qualified teachers, the students received a lower education which ultimately prohibited most of them from attending colleges which makes it harder for them to get jobs. The author of this article stresses the fact that even today, schools whose students are mostly African American, receive less funding and have fewer resources. This article is a good resource for this course because it shows the students how the school systems are still segregated today even though most people don't realize it.

Unit 3: Latin Americans

BIG Question: In what ways have Latin Americans received unequal education and how does this affect their lives today?

Argument of the Unit: Latin Americans have received unequal education because of their race, language, and immigration laws throughout history. Today, Latin Americans still face disadvantages in public schools because of the lack of culturally diverse teachers and the struggle for undocumented immigrants to receive higher education.

Key Words: Vietnam war, xenophobia, *Castañeda v. Pickard*, *Plyler vs. Doe*, inexorable

Source #1: On Two Fronts

Explanation of Source: This educational film from PBS describes the involvement of Mexicans and Latinos in the Vietnam war. The film points out that the Latinos felt as if they had no other choice but to join the military because college wasn't a realistic option for them. Since most Latinos were primarily immigrants or had family members who were immigrants, they received a lower quality education and more discrimination within the school systems. Not only did they not have a lot of money, they had decreased opportunities simply because they were seen as "aliens" because of their race. The film stresses the fact that their involvement in the war was less of a choice than most people perceive it to

be. This film is a good resource for this course because it shows how your race gives you less educational opportunities which ultimately affects the rest of your life and gives you less of a choice in your career path.

Source #2: Framing the "Gap"

Explanation of Source: This chapter from the book *Academic Profiling: Latinos, Asian Americans, and the Achievement Gap* by Gilda Ochoa describes how there is a gap in the education of Latin Americans versus Asian Americans. The chapter points out that there is an underlying idea of racial hierarchy in schools that are rooted from past racism that continues to affect the education of Latinos. The author stresses the fact that a student's culture and race does have an affect on how most teachers and staff view their students and ultimately has an affect on their education, giving them unequal opportunities. Since most teachers are predominantly white with little diversity among them, it's harder for these teachers to connect with racially diverse students which negatively affects their education. Because of this, there is this stigma that certain racial minorities such as Latin Americans typically score less in school because of race rather than individual challenges. This article is a good resource for this unit because it shows how Latinos are still negatively affected in schools today.

Source #3: The Crisis in the Education of Latino Students

Explanation of Source: This article from the National Education Association describes how Latinos are facing an education crisis because of their race. The article points out that the crisis is a result of many things including social and economic factors that prohibit these students from getting an equal education. The author of this article stresses the fact that we need more qualified teachers in the school systems who know how to speak other languages and work with students of different backgrounds in order to help them achieve and receive an equal education. Often, a student's language or cultural difference distracts educators from the student's most basic educational needs. This article is a good resource for this course because it provides statistics and solutions about Latin American achievement in schools. Also, it shows how many disadvantages they face simply from being an immigrant or a different race which ultimately affects their access to a good education.

Source #4: Understanding Educational Inequality: Latino Students and Academic Achievement in the United States

Explanation of Source: This paper from a New York University student describes how the school system puts Latin American students at a disadvantage because of their race and culture. The paper points out that most Latin American minorities live in areas that suffer from poverty and unemployment which ultimately causes these children to go to schools with lower educational opportunities and less funding. The author of this paper stresses the fact that these conditions cause schools to have less experience and training to teach students who speak different languages and have different cultural backgrounds that make it harder to learn. Also, because a lot of Latinos are undocumented immigrants or have parents who are undocumented, it prohibits them from getting a college education by law. Even if they were documented, Latin American families usually do not have the money in order to receive a higher education. This article is a good resource for this course because it shows the struggles of Latin Americans to receive equal education because of their ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Source Key:

3 From our class

3 Non-text sources

3 Books or scholarly journals

3 Other

3MP-

The outcome of this unequal education in the past still affects us negatively and positively today-

Negative- still discrimination in schools, schools that are primarily one race, racism in schools, grades given based on race? Signs of racism in schools ex- indian mascots

Positive- more diversity in schools now, other races are more accepted now than they were before