Today’s lecture: ethnicity and race

1. social construction of race
2. prejudice and discrimination
3. keys to “successful” immigrant groups
4. black-white differences in wealth and the race-class debate

Myrdal, *The American Dilemma* (1944)

The dilemma is the contradiction between

and

Race is commonly considered to be a , but the meaning and definition of race is
Race and biology

1. Attempts by anthropologists and biologists to specify the

2. No matter what the definition of “race” that you use, the amount of any race than the amount of

3. In terms of variation, the variation among different is greater than that of

social constructions of race

• Of the major racial/ethnic groups in the United States, and probably come the closest to having ancestors have been in the United States than the average 

• The categories of “Hispanic” and “Asian-American”

• While we might see the ethnic category of “White” as , American history has seen

rates of female-headed households with children under 18 in the United States (1997)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-Americans</td>
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<td>(African Americans, 1970)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexican-Americans</td>
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<td>Puerto Ricans</td>
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Racial privilege built into law: comparing apartheid South Africa to the Jim Crow South

- Definitions of race in the American South based on
- Few of those who are socially defined as Black in the US
- Definitions of race in apartheid South Africa based on prejudice and discrimination

- prejudice: attitudes
- discrimination: unequal
- the social psychological theory of contact is that contact reduces prejudice only if groups are of and are NOT in a situation

individual racism vs. institutional racism

- “individual racism”: single individuals actively holding prejudices against outgroups and/or actively practicing discrimination against outgroups
- “institutional racism”: norms and practices that have
Keys to “successful” immigrant groups

- Wherever you look, immigrants tend to faster than
  – (at least three reasons why this is the case)
- G often helps immigrant groups attain , through the development of
- E economy: business opportunities generated by the of an immigrant group through

Black progress relative to other groups: where to start the clock?

Black-White differences in wealth

- Gains by Blacks toward between Blacks and Whites have not done nearly as much to
- In 1994, the median (average) White family than the median Black family
race-class debate:
To what extent are persistent racial inequalities sustained by versus ?

Consider: What affects might practices and “ ” have on the accumulation of wealth?
1. Some evidence suggests that Blacks may pay
2. Black investments in residential real estate in real estate

identity:
the that people use to think about who they are
“identity” (importance in how people think about themselves)