**There will be no class on Thursday, March 5th.**

There is an ***in class assessment*** on ***Tuesday, March 3rd 2015***.

**Topic for in class assessment will be Health theories/Risky behavior.**

**Watch guest lecture film on openlab.**

Watched 2nd episode of **"RACE, The Power of an Illusion", The story we tell.**

Highlights of the movie:

It starts with a universal truth that every individual is born equal.

The movie illustrates different theories and definitions on race. It defines that race is just an idea and has a history which was created four centuries ago. It is constructed in order to achieve various economic as well as political goals.

Thomas Jefferson: first person to articulate the theory of race.

He also gave emphasis to human equality in the Declaration of Independence. On the contrary, he was a slaveholder who owned about 225 slaves.

People believed that all men are created equal. On the other hand, they disregarded enslaved people as men. Thus, there was always a contradiction which gave rise to racial discrimination.

Race was something which evolved over time as in the earlier years, people used to give more emphasis on religion than how they appeared.

In the American history, European started as slaves. However, because of hard journey across the Atlantic, supply of European slaves started to decline and then the slave trade was done with Africa. Africans were considered as ideal labors. Africans were made as a synonym to slavery.

The movie also mentions that Indians were more or less similar to Europeans who identified themselves as being whites. Indians always considered themselves as free people and they would do whatever needed to protect their land. Thus, the U.S. decided to civilize the Indians in order to own all the land.

Cherokee, one of the largest tribes in America accepted the civilization polity that began in 1790s. It is believed that it didn’t take that long for them to be considered as civilized Indians. However, when Cherokees were forced to leave their land as the government promised to remove all Indians in 1802 in order to satisfy the settlement need for increasing number of white settlers. This trend reached to its worst when Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1828. The Cherokees were betrayed. All this incidents occurred due to the consideration that Cherokees doesn’t belong to the race that meets the criteria to live within America’s borders.

Swiss naturalist, Louis Agassiz supported the theory that all humans were united in a single creation, but meeting an American scientist, Samuel Morton compelled him to rethink on what he supported. Samuel Morton stated that he was using scientific methods to imply that the size of the skull could determine how smart the person was.

In conclusion, it is believed that race has played a vital part in American history. Race is what helped America a place in world’s history.