**Week 10: Race Inequalities**

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

This lecture continues examining racial and ethnic inequalities by considering key theoretical approaches explaining its causes. It also covers the main concepts explaining social stratification in the US.

1. What three key explanations of racial inequalities are covered in the first reading?
2. Explain the main criticisms of the biological inferiority theory.
3. How does the cultural deficiency approach explain racial inequalities?
4. What is the difference between how Elijah Anderson’s concepts of “oppositional culture” and the cultural deficiency theory explain racial and ethnic inequalities?
5. How does the conflict theory explain racial inequalities?
6. Why does Lipsitz argue that racism takes place? What does he mean by “place?”
7. According to Lipsitz, why did the whites accumulate so much wealth when compared to the minorities?
8. What is meritocracy? Why is it problematic to assume that everyone deserves the social status they achieve?
9. What is social stratification? What impact does it have on an individual’s life?
10. According to the reading, what determines a person’s social standing? List and explain four factors.
11. What are three systems of social stratification? How do they differ from each other?
12. The reading discusses differences between the caste, class and meritocracy based social systems. How does each system regulate marriage? What is exogamous marriage?
13. What is status consistency? Why does the reading state that in class-based society status consistency is low? Provide an example.

**General discussion questions:**

* + - 1. Can you think of examples of white privilege from your own experience or the reading? Why do the Whites tend to not notice it?
      2. Why do the Blacks fare worse economically than the Asians in the US? What are the historical reasons of this disparity?
      3. Do you think minorities, especially Blacks, have a significantly different culture and values from the white mainstream culture? If so, what are the effects of these differences on the lives of minorities? If not, where does the popular perception of minority culture being so different come from?