

ST-Race & Rumors of Race: Anthro. Encounter

Sociology and Anthropology 460

Section: D100

Term: 2001 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Michael G. Kenny

Discussion Topics: The nature of human difference remains one of the key topics in anthropology and in the history of its emergence as a discipline. How are cultural and physical differences to be explained? "Race" was once, and in some quarters still is, seen as one of the most significant factors in accounting for this variability. Such theories have had a very great impact on modern history because of their political implications; one only has to think of Nazi racialism, the emergence of the eugenics movement, Asiatic exclusion laws in North America, the justification for racial segregation, the treatment of Aboriginal peoples, and imperial ideology more generally. These theories are still around and in fact have become more lively again in recent years. This seminar will examine such theories in their historical context and with regard to their political and social implications. The seminar is not aimed at a critique of "racism," but at an understanding of the historical and cultural roots of racist thought in relation to anthropology.

Grading: Your final mark in this course will be based on the following:

Oral presentation on one of the readings: 10%

Oral presentation of research paper: 20%

Final paper (20-25pp): 70%

Required Texts: William H. Tucker, *The Science and Politics of Racial Research*

Diane Paul, *Controlling Human Heredity: 1865 to the Present*

Marek Kohn, *The Race Gallery: The Return of Racial Science*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*