



Honors 1000 Seminar Descriptions

Spring 2022

One credit hour

Reconstructing Race: A Study of Caste in America

Honors Seminar (HON 1000)

CRN 13883

Dr. Kenya Kirkendoll

In the United States, there are documented disparities in the delivery of healthcare in the United States among racial groups. Minority groups experience differences in health outcomes, inequality in delivery of care and barriers in access to care. Do similar disparities exist in relation to Covid-19 screening, diagnosis, care, and vaccine receipt?

This course will examine the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States through the lens of the U.S. healthcare caste system. Learning activities will include: group discussion, a visit to GSU's health is a human right exhibit, a photovoice assignment that captures the covid-19 pandemic experience in pictures, a visit to the High Museum, and implicit bias self-assessment. Our learning objectives will include: examining differences in COVID-19 screening, diagnosis and treatment in the U.S.; investigation of structures formal and informal designed to overcome healthcare inequities; exploration of the impact of racism on health; practice of self-reflection and identify own biases: critical evaluation of Caste; and analysis of how a caste system works in a health care context.

Visible-Invisible: Caste & Covid-19

Honors Seminar (HON 1000)

CRN 13372

Dr. Tiffany Player

Reconstructing Race: A Study of Caste in America examines the interconnectedness of race and caste in American politics, economics, and culture from the colonial era into the twenty-first century. Students will utilize and critique the ideology of caste outlined in Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, to interpret the historical past and contemporary society.

Students will work collaboratively to investigate historical case studies including, the institution of slavery, Native dispossession, immigration, racial violence, government policies, labor and capitalism, monument controversies, and political repression. Each case study may include newspapers, personal accounts, images, government documents, propaganda, music, and other multimedia sources that contextualize these iterations of caste in the United States. We will consider the relationship of race and caste, how caste functioned, the range of options historical actors perceived, and the consequences of caste. As a key component of assessing each case study individually and collectively, students will also pay close attention to the survival strategies and cultural innovations created by oppressed peoples to withstand caste oppression. These group collaborations will help students develop the vocabulary and historical knowledge necessary to discuss difficult and controversial topics with people from diverse backgrounds. We will conclude the semester with a self-designed project that imagines how caste can be dismantled in the United States in the 21st century