

IDP 102 – Thinking Through Race

- **Is Race Real?**
- **Where did the Idea of Race Come From?**
- **Why Has Racism Been So Pervasive and Enduring in American History?**
- **Why Was Blackface Minstrelsy the Most Popular Form of Entertainment in the 19 th Century U.S.?**
- **How Has Racism Been Structured Into American Legal and Economic Systems?**
- **What Is at Stake in the Debate Between Proponents of Affirmative Action and Advocates of Colorblind Policies?**
- **Is “Diversity” a Solution to Inequality?**

Explore these and other questions regarding race with Smith faculty from a range of disciplines in IDP 102, Thinking Through Race, a one -credit, S/U course to be taught this fall.

The first 7 Monday evenings (except for Rosh Hashanah on September 29) of the semester, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., in Stoddard Auditorium

Interested students should attend the first meeting of the course on Monday, September 8.

Course Description

This course offers an interdisciplinary and comparative examination of race in the Americas, as well as in other parts of the world, from the periods of discovery/conquest to the present. Although race is no longer held by scientists to have any biological reality, it has obviously played a central role in the formation of legal codes (from segregation to affirmative action), economics (slavery and labor patterns), culture, and identities across the Americas and elsewhere. Where did the concept of race come from? How has it changed over time and across space? What pressures does it continue to exert on our lives? By bringing together faculty from a variety of programs and disciplines, and by looking at a range of cultural texts, visual images, and historical events where racial distinctions and identities have been deployed, constructed and contested, we hope to give students a much richer understanding of how race matters. This course will meet for the first seven weeks of the semester. Not open to students who have taken AMS 102.

Graded S/U only. (E)

Kevin Rozario (American Studies) and Rick Millington (English Language and Literature)

Faculty:

Ginetta Candelario
Rob Dorit
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Kevin Rozario and
Vicky Spelman