PURPOSE
An examination of discrimination from a social scientific perspective. Topics covered include defining discrimination, types of discrimination under the law, testing for discrimination, discrimination experiments, and a survey of what social scientists have discovered about discrimination in the areas of policing, bail, retail sales, automobile sales, and home mortgages. Although there is considerable time devoted to lecture, students are encouraged to participate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Evaluation is based on three exams (25% each), and a 15-20 page paper and presentation (25%). The exams are given as scheduled and are not given early—please make any travel plans accordingly. You must take all three exams to pass the course. The paper is due during the course’s university-scheduled final period. This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets twice weekly for 3 hours per week. The course also includes challenging independent reading for 1 hour per week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Be familiar with the University’s policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action. Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Remember that the same technology that has made plagiarism easier to accomplish has also made it easier to detect. If you do not cite a source, it is plagiarism. If you do cite it, it is scholarship.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Find the readings online by clicking on the blue links.

August 27: Welcome

- None (first day of class).

September 1-3: Race; Inequality in the U.S.


September 8-10: Theories and models 1


September 15-17: Theories and models 2


September 22-September 24: Detecting discrimination

September 29-October 1: Employment; Retail

• Altonji and Pierret (2001). Employer Learning and Statistical Discrimination.

October 6: Social

• None.

October 8: Exam 1

• None.

October 13-15: Lending; Segregation


October 20-22: Education; Affirmative Action

• Fairlie, Hoffmann, and Oreopoulus (2014). A Community College Instructor Like Me: Race and Ethnicity Interactions in the Classroom.
October 27-29: Policing: Politics


November 3-5: Looks; Sports


November 10: Implicit bias

• Take the online Harvard Implicit Association Test. Project Implicit.

November 12: Exam 2

• None.

November 17-19: Health

• Chandra and Staiger (2014). Identifying provider prejudice in health care.
• Green et al. (2007). Implicit bias among physicians and its prediction of thrombolysis decisions for black and white patients.

November 24-26: Thanksgiving

• None.
December 1: TBA

- TBA.

December 3: Summary

- Arrow (1998). What has economics to say about racial discrimination?

December 8: Exam 3

- None.