

Dutch 161AC

Multiracial Americans:

The History and Future of Racially-Mixed Communities in the United States



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Fall 2024 | Tu/Th 2-3:30pm | 4 units

In this course, we study three multiracial communities with a Dutch-American connection, one that identifies as African American, one as Native American and one as Asian American, and take these cases as a point of departure for a broader discussion on the history and future of racially-mixed people in American society. This focus is important considering that people of mixed race have experienced a long history of discrimination in the United States. Racial mixture was long associated with degeneration, and racial theorists claimed that it weakened physical, intellectual and moral qualities such as strength, endurance, honesty, and even fertility. During the era of segregation, this discrimination reflected itself in anti-miscegenation laws. However, out of World War II and the Holocaust grew the awareness about the dangers of theories advocating racial purity or superiority, which had a positive effect on the nation's attitude toward racially-mixed relationships. A major accomplishment was the 1967 Supreme Court decision in the *Loving v. Virginia* case that ruled against laws banning interracial marriage. While opposition against racial mixture continues to the present day by racist groups advocating white supremacy, the number of partnerships between people of a different race has experienced a steady increase.

No knowledge of Dutch language is required; all readings and discussions will be in English.

For more information, contact the instructor:

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