Race is a socially defined category, based on real or perceived biological differences between groups of people.
What is Ethnicity?

• *Ethnicity* is a socially defined category based on common language, religion, nationality, history, or another cultural factor.
Defining Race and Ethnicity

• Sociologists see race and ethnicity as social constructions because:
  – Race isn’t based on biology (for instance, we don’t test DNA to determine race)
  – Racial categories change over time
  – Racial categories never have firm boundaries
Mulberry Street at the Turn of the Century
The distinction between race and ethnicity is important because ethnicity can be displayed or hidden, depending on individual preferences, while racial identities are always on display.
Ethnicity

• *Symbolic ethnicity* is an ethnic identity that is only relevant on specific occasions and does not significantly impact everyday life.

• *Situational ethnicity* is an ethnic identity that can be either displayed or concealed depending on its usefulness in a given situation.
What Is a Minority?

• A minority group is a social group that is systematically denied access to power and resources available to the dominant groups of a society
• NOT necessarily fewer in number than the dominant group
Racism

• *Racism*: a set of beliefs about the superiority of one racial or ethnic group.
  – Used to justify inequality
  – Often rooted in the assumption that differences between groups are genetic.
Prejudice and Discrimination

• **Prejudice:** (a thought process)
  – an idea about the characteristics of a group
  – applied to all members of that group
  – unlikely to change regardless of the evidence against it.

• **Discrimination:** (an action)
  – unequal treatment of individuals because of their social group
  – usually motivated by prejudice
Types of Discrimination

- **Individual discrimination** is discrimination carried out by one person against another.

- **Institutional discrimination** is discrimination carried out systematically by social institutions (political, economic, educational, and others) which affects all members of a group who come into contact with it.
Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Race in America

• *Functionalist theorists*
  – Focus on the ways that race creates social ties and strengthens group bonds
  – Acknowledge that such ties can lead to violence and social conflict between groups
Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Race in America

- *Conflict theory*
  - Focuses on the struggle for power and control over scarce resources.
Race as an Interactional Accomplishment

- **Symbolic Interactionists**
  - Focus on the ways that race, class, and gender intersect to produce an individual’s identity.
  - See race as an aspect of identity established through interaction.
Race as an Interactional Accomplishment (Cont’d)

• *Racial passing*, or living as if one is a member of a different racial category, has a long history in the United States.
Race and ethnicity influence all aspects of our lives, including health, education, work, family, and interactions with the criminal justice system and healthcare.
In U.S. education, the highest high school dropout rates are associated with those from economically disadvantaged and non-English-speaking backgrounds.
U.S. Bachelor’s Degree Holders by Race, 2007 (Figure 9.2)
Race, Ethnicity, and Life Chances (cont’d)

• Inequality can also be seen in the workplace and in income distribution.
• People of color, who are less likely to achieve high levels of education, are more likely to have lower-paying jobs.
• Finally, non-whites are more likely to interact with law enforcement.
Race Relations: Conflict or Cooperation

- **Genocide** is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a racial, ethnic, national, or cultural group.
- **Population transfer** the forcible removal of a group of people from the territory they have occupied.
Race Relations: Conflict or Cooperation (cont’d)

• **Internal colonialism** is the economic and political domination and subjugation of the minority group by the controlling group within a nation.

• **Segregation** is the formal and legal separation of groups by race or ethnicity.
Race Relations: Conflict or Cooperation (cont’d)

• **Assimilation** the minority group is absorbed into the mainstream or dominant group, making society more homogeneous.
  
  – *Racial assimilation* racial minority groups are absorbed into the dominant group through intermarriage.
  
  – *Cultural assimilation* racial or ethnic groups are absorbed into the dominant group by adopting the dominant group’s culture.
Race Relations: Conflict or Cooperation (cont’d)

• **Pluralism** (or *multiculturalism*) is a pattern of inter-group relations that encourage racial and ethnic variation within a society.
1. A socially defined category based on common language, religion, nationality, history, or another cultural factor is called:
   a. ethnicity
   b. symbolic ethnicity
   c. symbolic race
   d. race
2. The unequal treatment of individuals because of their social group is called:

   a. racism
   b. Discrimination
   c. prejudice
   d. institutional racism
3. Light-skinned African Americans who attempt to live as white in order to avoid the consequences of being black in a racist society are practicing:

a. racial passing
b. social fraud
c. ethnic cleansing
d. symbolic racism
4. An idea about the characteristics of a group describes:
   a. prejudice
   b. assimilation
   c. discrimination
   d. stereotyping
5. The pattern of intergroup relations that encourages racial and ethnic variation within a society is called:
   a. pluralism
   b. segregation
   c. population transfer
   d. assimilation
Additional Art for Chapter 9
Ethnic Options
Discrimination Takes Many Forms
### Table 9.1: Theory in Everyday Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perspective</th>
<th>Approach to Race and Ethnicity</th>
<th>Case Study: Racial Inequality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONALISM</strong></td>
<td>Racial and ethnic difference is a necessary part of society. Even racial inequality has functions that help maintain social order.</td>
<td>The functions of racial inequality and conflict for society could include the creation of social cohesion within both the dominant and minority groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONFLICT THEORY</strong></td>
<td>Racial and ethnic differences create intergroup conflict—minority and majority groups have different interests and may find themselves at odds as they attempt to secure and protect them.</td>
<td>Some members of majority groups (whites and men in particular) object to affirmative action programs that assist underrepresented groups. This can create conflict between racial groups in society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symbiotic INTERACTIONISM</strong></td>
<td>Race and ethnicity are part of our presentation of self.</td>
<td>Some individuals—while ethnics and light-skinned non-whites in particular—have the option to conceal their race or ethnicity in situations where it might be advantageous to do so. This may allow them as individuals to escape the effects of racial inequality but does not erase it from the society at large.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sweeter the Juice
Racial Identity: “More Than the Sum of Our Parts”
Mildred and Richard Loving
How Do You Feel about Interracial Relationships?
### Federal Cocaine Offenders by Race/Ethnicity, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Powder Cocaine</th>
<th>Crack Cocaine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2,662</td>
<td>50.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,239</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** U.S. Sentencing Commission 2000 Datafile
Survivors of Genocide
Survivors of Genocide
This concludes the Lecture PowerPoint presentation for Chapter 9

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