

1. Dr. Lee Artz: “Media Framing and the Politics of Racism”

Using objective news reporting, headlines, and images, mainstream media selectively frame events to promote dominant political policies. Relying on official sources, including leading black politicians, media marginalize or silence voices from the black majority. Multiple news reports indicate that media emphasize looting and protest anger, while avoiding the historical context and daily reality of segregation, systemic violence, and racist incarceration. Police violence appears most often as a passive unfortunate outcome of crime and disorder. Media effectively avoid challenges to institutional racism by featuring "transformative" Congressional reform and corporate PR statements of solidarity. In this framing process, viewers and readers are encouraged to believe systemic racism is being curbed, even as its fundamental features are expanded. News media indoctrinate whites, subjugate blacks.

2. Dr. Kim Scipes: “How to Talk About Race in the 21st Century”

There is undoubtedly more confusion, more obfuscation, and more outright lying about the subject of race than any other subject in contemporary US life. To begin with, there is only one race, the human race—there is no black, brown, red, yellow, or white race. To talk about “race” coherently, we need to recognize our African heritage, and the role of colonialism and white supremacy in world history. We also need to understand its role in social control: “race” is a social construction by the economically and politically powerful, and skin color, facial structure, hair texture, the slanting of the eyes, etc., all have sociological implications that affect each of us, albeit differentially. Immigration status, too, has social implications. How do we sort all of this information out? This talk will conclude with a discussion of contemporary racial discrimination in the US, distinguishing individual from institutional racism.