Introduction
The 2010 United States Census revealed that over 2 million black men were “missing” from the population due to disproportionately higher rates of incarceration and mortality compared to white men. More than half a century after the height of the Civil Rights Movement, such glaring inequalities between black Americans and white Americans can be observed across a myriad of measures that cover health, employment, income, wealth, education, and incarceration. We explore racial gaps through the numbers, analyzing their various social and political consequences. Among other things, we will cover how inequalities influence elections and alter the state of representation in Congress and other representative bodies in the United States, how racial segregation transforms our political landscape, and how gerrymandering - including “prison gerrymandering” - affects our political institutions.

Objective
The main objective of the course is for you to use quantitative analysis to evaluate various racial gaps in the United States and consider how these gaps might alter our political landscape. You will learn to read empirical research on the subject and explore how social scientists use data in order to make inferences about the world we live. Moreover you will learn to conduct empirical research on your own, using R to help you synthesize data, make inferences and test hypotheses.

Grades
20% Participation & Attendance
30% Homework
50% Research Project and Presentation

Agenda
Week 1 Overview
- Introduction
- 2010 Census "The Black Population: 2010"
- 2010 Census "Child Poverty in the United States 2009 and 2010: Selected Race Groups and Hispanic Origin"

Week 2 Wage Gap


Week 3 Wealth Gap


Week 4 Inequality in Health, Mortality, Etc.


Week 5 Mass Incarceration


Week 6 and 7 Mass Incarceration and its Effect on Representation


Week 8 Mass Incarceration and Disenfranchisement


Week 9 Racial Gerrymandering


**Week 10** Prison Gerrymandering
