

SCIENCE AND RACE: HISTORY, USE, AND ABUSE

USING THE PUBLIC CLASSROOM

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/pmclassroom/>

The Public Classroom is designed to spark conversation about the issues of our time. **Science and Race** introduces a range of topics that call attention to the complicated and, too often, destructive history of race:

- CLASS 1.** How did the concept of race originate and does it have any scientific validity?
- CLASS 2.** Does racial background have an effect on the health of individuals or communities?
- CLASS 3.** What do evolution, diversity, and genes have to do with race?
- CLASS 4.** Is ancestry connected with race?
- CLASS 5.** Is there a connection between patterns of violence and race?

VIDEOS

This core content addresses each of the questions outlined above. Each class includes an **Introductory Video** produced by Penn's Camra media program featuring behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with panelists, as well as a **Webcast Video** of the live-streamed classroom event (*see webcast breakdown*).

ORIENTATION & GLOSSARIES

Each webcast video includes a short orientation to the subject matter (~15 minutes long). This is paired, where possible, with downloadable versions of the materials for reference. (*see individual class downloads*)

PENN MUSEUM COLLECTION

Please Note: This public course references collection materials of human skulls
Each class includes an exploration of select specimens from the museum's Samuel Morton collection of Human Crania. A pre-eminent American scientist of his time, Morton is now remembered as the father of scientific racism. Morton's cranial studies were used to justify arguments for slavery and racial inequality.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES & READING LISTS

Each class is paired with an activity focused on prompting dialog about the issues covered during the class. Supplemental reading lists provide a selection of books, articles, and videos organized for academic, adult, and young readers. (*see individual class downloads*)

Schools:

Grade 8 and up. Materials designed to be used in the classroom or at home.

Families:

Videos recommended for adults and children ages 14 and up (*parental discretion*). Supplemental reading lists identify age-appropriate materials for younger readers.

Community Groups:

Videos and supplemental materials support small group conversation around a broad range of topics.

WEBCASTS:

- Orientation (~15 min)
- Collection Intro (~30-45 min)
- Panel Discussion (~ 60 min.)
- Panel Q&A: (~ 30 min.)

EXPLORE MORE:

Making and Unmaking Race

This special exhibition can be viewed at the Penn Museum. Located on the lower level near the Trescher Entrance.