

F25.034 Pop Culture Freaks: Chapter on Race

Overview

The author of Pop Culture Freaks: Identity, Mass Society, and Society contacted the faculty mentor to write the chapter on Race and Popular Culture for the 3rd Edition of his book slated to come out in 2026. The chapter will feature the faculty mentor's dissertation research on transformative comedy that challenges race and racism in the US. Research assistance is needed in analyzing the dissertation research and in research on the topic of popular culture and race in the US.

What the student will DO and LEARN

The student(s) will analyze quantitative and qualitative dissertation research conducted in 2015 on five decades (1960-2000) of transformative American sketch comedy that challenges race and racism. Students will be introduced to statistical software like SPSS and to qualitative research techniques like content analysis and historical and theoretical analysis. Student(s) will also assist in literature review searches on the topics of race, comedy, and popular culture in the post-Civil Rights Era. Lastly, student(s) will comment on drafts of the chapter and draft a page of their own. Student(s) will discuss, under the mentorship of the professor, the content of this page and will work collaboratively to draft a page that will be included in the chapter.

Additional benefits

Benefits include active and engaged mentorship on research practices and techniques and being involved in the authorial process of contributing to a major sociological textbook. They will be exposed to the writing process and gain a deeper understanding of how academic research is translated into academic publications for public use.

Additional qualifications

Students who have a background in SBS and who have completed their 1st year of college are preferred.

Time commitment

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks