Race and Science

HSCI 3253,
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This course will push students to question the idea of race; and intends to have students come to a recognition of race as a social category rather than a biological reality by exploring the intersecting histories of race, science and colonialism. What role did science and scientists play in the construction of race as a category of human difference? Using case studies illustrated through film and literature, we explore the origins and course of scientific racism and its consequences for populations across the world. This course will discuss scholarship on phrenology, intelligence testing, criminality, eugenics, sterilization, Nazi science and contemporary genetics. We also explore how scientific racism was fundamental to the project of colonialism.