Psych 768 – Seminar in Developmental Psychology  
Spring 2011  
Wednesday 9 – 11:30  
228 Davie Hall

**Instructor**  
Dr. Eleanor K. Seaton  
208 Davie Hall  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Email: eseaton@unc.edu

**Course Description**  
The course focuses on the conceptualization and the measurement of Racial Discrimination and Racial Identity. Specific focus will be placed on the experiences of minority youth and a multidisciplinary approach will be taken with research from psychology, history, sociology, economics, and public health.

**Course Requirements**  
Students are expected to attend and participate in all class seminars. Students are expected to read the week’s materials and be prepared to discuss them prior to coming to class. As their primary paper for the course, students will be required to write a grant proposal related to their specific interests and the course topics. All topics for the research proposal require pre-approval from the instructor.

**Discussion Groups**  
Each week students will be assigned to serve as discussion leaders for the week. Discussion leaders are required to develop at least 5 thought-provoking questions that will be used to stimulate class discussion on Wednesday. Each student will have three opportunities to develop questions for the topic of their choice. The questions are to be circulated to the class no later than Monday at 9 AM. Every student will submit one question for the last class, which will occur on April 27, 2011.

In order to assist question development, consider the following: (a) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author’s work (e.g., consider its theoretical or empirical contribution, the credibility/tenability of the assumptions, soundness of research design and interpretation of data), (b) How would you improve the author’s work? (c) What questions provoked by the authors’ work merit study? (d) What is the most critical evidence presented by the author in support of these points? (e) Do you agree that the author’s concern is important?

**Research Proposal**  
You are to design a research project on a topic covered in class that is similar to your research interests. The proposal can consist of a primary data collection or secondary data analyses, but it must be a realistic study that you plan to do or would strongly consider doing. This should be a new proposal and not one from a previous seminar. The proposal may be compatible with your ongoing research activities, but should go beyond what you have already done. The proposal will constitute a grant application similar to an R03 or R21 proposal for NIH and should be no
more than 6 single-spaced pages. Additional details will be provided at a later date and a sample proposal will be available for your perusal. The proposal is due April 13th.

Course Readings
Course readings will be posted on Blackboard.
Course Schedule

I. INTRODUCTION

January 12th  Theories of Developmental Processes in Minority Youth


January 19th  Basic Conceptual and Methodological Issues in the study of Minority Youth


II. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

January 26th  Conceptual Frameworks for Understanding Racism and Racial Discrimination


February 2nd  Evolutionary, Economic and Social Psychological Approaches to Understanding Racial Discrimination


**February 9th** Validation Studies of Racial Discrimination


**February 16th** Racial Discrimination and Minority Youth: Empirical Evidence


**February 23**

Racial Discrimination, Coping and Minority Youth: Empirical Evidence


**March 2** – Racial Discrimination Research: Where do we go from here?


**March 9** Spring Break

**III. RACIAL IDENTITY**

**March 16** Conceptual Frameworks for Racial Identity


**March 23rd** Race vs. Ethnicity: Measurement of Racial Identity


**March 30th** No class – SRCD

**April 6th** Racial Identity among Diverse Youth


**April 13th** Racial Identity and Racial Socialization: Empirical Evidence


April 20th **Racial Identity and Racial Discrimination: Empirical Evidence**


April 27th **Racial Identity Research: Where do we go from here?**


