

Oct. 26, 2009

### QUESTIONS ON OMI & WINANT, AND HILL

1. Omi and Winant state that race is now a preeminently political phenomenon (p. 126). Discuss. Do you agree?
2. Omi and Winant argue that “race” has no fixed meaning. Do you agree? Why do they say this?
3. What is hegemony (Omi and Winant, p. 127)? How can this concept help us understand racialization and racism?
4. Discuss Omi and Winant’s notion of “racial projects.” What makes some racial projects racist and others not?
5. Hill also talks about “projects” (pp 20-21). Compare to Omi and Winant’s use of the word.
6. Were the members of the association of black social workers who maintained that black children should only be adopted by black parents racist? Defend your position.
7. What is an ideologue? Give one example.
8. Is affirmative action an example of reverse racism? Defend your position.
9. Omi and Winant differentiate between ideological and structural causes of racism (p. 134 and previous discussion). Describe both concepts.
10. What is the distinction between racial awareness and racial essentialism (Omi and Winant p. 131)? What is essentialism? Give 3 examples of essentialism not related to race.
11. Omi and Winant state (p. 130) that Bob Blauner has found that some non-white students maintain that blacks cannot be racist. Defend this position using these students’ argument. Critique it.
12. Describe Omi and Winant’s “racial formation” theory. Link it to “racial project.”
13. Use the concept of hegemony to discuss Hill’s essay.
14. How do Omi and Winant differ from classic Marxist understandings of racism?
15. If someone perpetuates racism but is unaware of doing so, is he or she racist? Under what circumstances are they racist? Under what circumstances would they not be racists? Provide an example of both. Gold stars if you can do this using examples from Hill.

16. What are the differences between the biological dimensions of sex/gender and those of race? How does racism resemble sexism?
17. Why *is* the average household net worth of African Americans less than one-tenth of White households (Hill p. 3)?
18. What does “Jim Crow” refer to?
19. How can a sociopolitical phenomenon have biological effects? Provide 3 examples.
20. What is “black exceptionalism” (Hill, p. 16)?
21. Describe Foucault’s use of “discourse” (Hill, p. 19).
22. Give 5 examples of white privilege. Try to come up with unobvious ones.
23. Counter-intuitively, the ten most racially segregated cities in the U.S. are in the North and the ten most racially integrated cities are in the South. Having read Hill, discuss what produced these patterns.
24. Give 3 examples of actions that perpetuate racism yet are neither intentionally nor unconsciously racist.

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