**COURSE PREPARATION ASSIGNMENT EXAMPLE**

**By David Yamane**

**Wake Forest University**

[**http://people.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/Notes/Yamane%20on%20Reading%20Before%20Class.pdf**](http://people.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/Notes/Yamane%20on%20Reading%20Before%20Class.pdf)

**Chapter 12 Course Preparation Assignment: (or CPA)**

**Hypothesis on Racial Inequality in America**

**Introduction: Still an American Dilemma?**

In 1944, Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdal published a landmark study of American race relations. He maintained that the principles of equality at the heart of the U.S. Constitution clashed with the unequal treatment of African Americans which he observed historically and at the time he was writing. This, for Myrdal, was *An American Dilemma* (the title of his famous book). While the position of African-Americans (and other racial minorities) has improved since then, inequalities remain. These inequalities are of great interest to sociologists.

**Objective**

To describe and analyze the causes of racial inequality in the contemporary United States.

**Background**

Consider the following data from the U.S. Census Bureau for 2001:

Median Family Income Percent of White Income

Whites $47,041 100

Blacks $29,939 64

**Assignment**

1. Read Chapter 12 of the textbook on racial inequality to familiarize yourself with its forms, causes, and consequences.

2. Generate at least five testable hypotheses you believe might account for the differences in income given above. In other words, the differences in income are your dependent variable. What are the independent variables?

*Note:* Start with the hypotheses you think are most important or plausible; then go on to list rival hypotheses that you think are less important or less plausible and would therefore want to test and disprove as a sociologist. Remember: since you want to generate testable hypotheses, you need to be as specific as possible in formulating your answers.

http://people.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/Notes/Yamane%20on%20Reading%20Before%20Class.pdf