

Dear Majors, Minors, Alum, Colleagues, and Friends,

We write to you today to collectively take a knee alongside all those who are fighting against systemic racism, structural violence, and other forms of oppression in our country and around the world. We grieve for George Floyd and his family as well as with all victims of police brutality and their families. We mourn for people who have died from coronavirus and their families, and we hope for the recovery of all coronavirus sufferers. We are deeply concerned about communities who are experiencing disproportionate rates of infection from coronavirus, including African Americans in South Carolina and nationally, the Navajo and many Native American nations, and the Yanomami and other Indigenous communities worldwide.

We stand in solidarity with demonstrators and others who are speaking out. We pledge to point out anti-black racism, fight it, and denounce it here at Wofford, in Spartanburg, and across our communities and daily interactions. Excluding, marginalizing, and targeting people, for example Black birders, is objectionable. We encourage everyone to thoughtfully reflect on their own race, class, and gender based privileges. We wish to express our deep compassion for all who are struggling. We stand with you now and imagine better futures with you.

As sociologists and anthropologists, we recognize the most recent incidents of police brutality and the inequitable suffering from the coronavirus pandemic as manifestations of long-standing, pervasive structural violence and systemic racism. Our task is to evaluate today's social problems with the goal of finding more ethical ways of living well together. Studying social and cultural phenomena is, for us, seamless with advocating for justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity.

Should you wish to consult sources of information from our two disciplines, we have compiled a list of key texts and websites. Please note this list is not exhaustive and still has room for your contributions and suggestions. The authors on the list below have perspectives that can help us interpret the current situation.

As we seek justice and equity, please know we welcome the opportunity to converse with you and will do all we can to support you. One among the many potential ways to be active is to participate in online gatherings such as *Breath, Ritual, and Witness in the Midst of Fire* at 6:00 pm on June 5 ([register here](#)). You are invited to reach out to your SOC/ANTH professors with suggestions or to relay your thoughts to us.

In Solidarity,
the Faculty Members in the Sociology and Anthropology Department of Wofford College
Cissy Fowler, Alysa Handelsman, Rhiannon Leebrick, Gerry Ginocchio, Anna Harkey, Gerald Thurmond,
and Jordan Miller

Recommended Readings

[West, Cornell](#). 1994. *Race Matters*. Vintage Books Edition.

[Jablonski, Nina G](#). 2012. *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color*. University of California Press.

[Goodman, Alan H., Yolanda T. Moses, Joseph L. Jones](#). 2012. *Race: Are We So Different?* Wiley-Blackwell.

[Harrison, Faye](#), editor. 2005. [Resisting Racism and Xenophobia: Global Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Human Rights](#). Roman & Littlefield.

[Harrison, Faye](#), 2018. [From Standing Rock to Flint and Beyond: Resisting Neoliberal Assaults on Indigenous, Maroon, and Other Sites of Racially Subjected Community Sustainability in the Americas](#). *Abya-Yala: Revista sobre Acesso à Justiça e Direitos nas Américas* 2(1): 70-89.

[Hartigan, John](#), editor. 2013. [Anthropology of Race: Genes, Biology and Culture](#). School for Advanced Research.

[Fanon, Frantz](#). 1952 (1967). *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press.

[Eberhardt, Jennifer](#). 2019. *Bias: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. Viking.

[Du Bois, W.E.B.](#) 1903 (1996). *The Souls of Black Folk*. Penguin Classics.

[Davis, Angela](#). 2003. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press.

[Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo](#). 2017. *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*. Rowman & Littlefield..

[Alexander, Michelle](#). 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press.

Online Resources

[American Anthropological Association's Statement on Race](#)
["Race and Ethnicity" from the American Sociological Association](#)
[Understanding Race. The Race Project. American Anthropological Association](#)
[#BlackLivesMatters | Cultural Anthropology](#)
[Teaching Race | Society for Cultural Anthropology](#)
[The Paradox of the Shameless White Liberal](#)
[#Charlestonsyllabus](#)
[Talking about Race](#)
[An Advocacy Toolkit for Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#)
[Silence is NOT an Option](#)
[Resources for Accountability and Actions for Black Lives](#)
[Anguish and Action](#)
[Justice in June](#)
[26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#)
[So Let's Talk About](#)

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Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples: We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the Native American communities who, for thousands of years, have lived and worked in the space now occupied by Wofford College. We offer our respect to the living, previously living, and future generations and hope to live in a way that honors them all. Please join us in recognizing the importance of the historical and continuing presence of the Indigenous Peoples of the Carolinas.