

SHORT PAPER #1
Mismeasure of Man
SOCIOLOGY 350
SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Directions:

Merton became a leader of the American polygenists who believed that the differences between human races signified separate species. And if the races of mankind were indeed separate species (as they believed), then it was reasonable to suspect that the human races might differ substantially from one another in their levels of intelligence. Discuss each of the following issues separately and label them part a), part b), part c) and so on:

- a) On what apparent basis did polygenists conclude that the human races of Caucasian, Mongolian, Malay, American, and Ethiopian were separate species?
- b) On what basis does Morton use the data in Table 2.3 to justify his claim that Caucasians were *more intelligent* than other races? What is the most crucial flaw in his whole chain of “scientific reasoning”?
- c) Explain why it was that Morton changed the methodology by which he scientifically measured cranial volume ... why is it that this change in methodology supports Gould’s claim that Morton was **not** trying to deliberately fudge his research results? What other reason do we have to believe that Morton was **not** trying to deceive us with his statistics?
- d) On what basis is it that Stephen Jay Gould concludes that Morton’s data do not justify concluding that the skulls of ***Crania Americana*** (American Indians) are any smaller than the skulls of ***Caucasians***?
- e) On what basis might you argue that Morton’s data do not prove any racial differences in cranial capacity at all ... just sex differences? Referring to the Babbie text how might the sex variable be used to illustrate what Babbie calls “a spurious relationship” as it relates to the correlation between race and cranial volume?
- f) In short, why do you think that these findings of racial differences in intelligence were so uncritically accepted by so many people in Europe and the United States?

Your essays should be a total of about two double-spaced type-written pages in length. As stated on the syllabus all papers are due in class one week from today.