

# TEACHING ABOUT RACE AND RACISM

Race and racism are central to the experience of being American. They shape our perceptions from childhood and influence our entire lives – both as individuals and as a society. After all, racism goes beyond individual and overt racist acts or words, and, as Ta-Nehisi Coates writes, “questions about ‘racism’ are really questions about the exercise of power.” This power extends into the classroom. As educators, we are not immune; ideas about race and racism influence our teaching, our students, and our relationships with our students. Yet, these topics can be difficult to address. They make people uncomfortable, and they carry emotional weight that other topics may not. In this presentation, Dr. Tidwell shares her experiences teaching about race and racism and offers ideas for discussing them productively, whether as a major or minor component of a course – even if you’re not teaching in the humanities.



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**PRESENTED BY  
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**TUESDAY, JAN. 19  
11-11:50 AM**

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