AGENDA

• Welcome and Introductions
• Brief Historical Overview
• Clinical and Teaching Examples
• Questions and Answers
• Closing
INTRODUCTIONS
A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Image from: http://gawker.com
RODNEY KING (26 YEARS OLD)

On March 3, 1991, King was beaten (but not killed) by LAPD officers after a high speed car chase. King was unarmed.

The beating was one of the first that was videotaped and widely televised.

Four officers were charged with assault and excessive force but acquitted.

The acquittal triggered the LA riots.

A subsequent federal indictment resulted in two officers being found guilty and imprisoned and the other two acquitted.
AMADOU DIALLO (22 YEARS OLD)

- An street vendor from West Africa, was shot 19 times by NYPD officers on February 4, 1999. They fired 41 bullets.

- The officers said they thought he was holding a gun; it turned out to be a wallet. Diallo was unarmed.

- Officers were charged with second degree murder and reckless endangerment.

- All were found not guilty.
OSCAR GRANT (23 YEARS OLD)

- Fatally shot by police officer in Oakland, CA in the early morning hours of New Year’s Day 2009.

- Officers restrained Grant, who was lying face down and allegedly resisting arrest.

- According to witnesses, the police officer who shot Grant said: “Get back, I’m gonna taser him.” Then he drew his gun and shot Grant once in the back with an actual gun.
VICTOR STEEN (17 YEARS OLD)

• On Oct. 3, 2009, Steen was pursued on his bike by a police officer in a cruiser in Pensacola, FL.

• Steen was unarmed but under suspicion of being on a construction site after hours.

• When he refused to stop, the officer aimed his Taser out the driver's window and fired. The boy fell off the bike and the cruiser ran over him, killing him.

• Victor was the fourth person who died in Florida in 2009 in an incident in which a Taser was used.

• No criminal charges were filed (ruled an accident) but the city settled out of court for $500,000.
On February 26, 2012, Trayvon was shot and killed while en route from a convenience store in his family’s neighborhood.

Trayvon's killer (Zimmerman), a neighborhood watch captain, called the police to report Trayvon, as a “suspicious person”.

Zimmerman was told by the police to not to confront Trayvon. He ignored this warning.

Zimmerman was charged with second degree murder and manslaughter but acquitted of both charges using the “stand your ground” defense.

This inspired the “Black Lives Matter” movement.
MICHAEL BROWN, JR. (18 YEARS OLD)

- Killed 8/9/14 in Ferguson, MO by Officer Darren Wilson.
- Brown had stolen from a convenience store. Wilson and Brown struggled through his car window until Wilson’s gun fired.
- Brown, who was unarmed, fled while Wilson pursued. He turned toward Wilson.
- Witnesses disagree about whether Brown had his hands up or whether he acted in a threatening manner.
- Wilson shot 6 times killing Brown.
- The death resulted in protests for more than a week.
- Wilson claimed that he felt threatened. On 11/24/14 a grand jury decided not to indict him.
ERIC GARNER (43 YEARS OLD)

- Killed July 17, 2014 in Staten Island, NY.

- Approached on suspicion of selling single cigarettes illegally.

- Since 1980, he had been arrested 30 times on charges such as assault, resisting arrest, selling unlicensed cigarettes. He filed a complaint about how he was treated by police.

- He denied selling cigarettes on this occasion and complained about being harassed – so he was arrested.

- While being arrested he repeated, “I Can't Breathe” 11 times.

- Medical examiner concluded that an illegal chokehold was partially responsible for his death and thus ruled the death a homicide.

- The key officer involved had been sued twice before for false arrest and abuse including strip searching Black men. On December 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2014 a grand jury decided not to indict any police officer for homicide.
FREDDIE GRAY (25 YEARS OLD)

- Died on 4/19/15 in Baltimore, MD after suffering spinal injuries during arrest on 4/12.

- Police claim he had an illegal switchblade.

- Investigation showed that he fell into a coma in the police van and was not secured properly.

- Violent protests occurred in Baltimore on 4/25 including burning of a CVS store.

- On 5/1 six officers were charged with crimes ranging from second degree murder to illegal arrest (claiming that the officers did not have probable cause for the arrest).

- On May 21st a grand jury indicted the officers on most charges except illegal arrest but added reckless endangerment.
WALTER SCOTT (50 YEARS OLD)

- Shot in the back April 4, 2015 in South Carolina.

- Stopped for a broken tail light, fled on foot (apparently to avoid arrest for unpaid child support), apparent tussle over the officer’s taser.

- June 8th, 2015: Officer Michael Slager indicted for murder.
Lloyd Gaines denied admission to the law school (1936) because he was Black. Won Supreme Court appeal but vanished at age 28.

MU paid out-of-state tuition to stop Black enrollment.

First Black student in 1950.

MU closed departments that employed Black faculty.

Numerous racial incidents were documented in a 2004 report.

Student protests including hunger strike and notable threatened football boycott led to the resignation of the MU President.
INTERSECTIONS WITH PRACTICE AND TEACHING
IMPACT: IN TEACHING

• College campuses are historical and contemporary sites of protest and dialog around issues of race and racial injustice
• Questions arise about how to contain and whether to address current events with students, and if so, how?
• When is it appropriate?
• Who has the right?
• Individual vs. Institutional responses
IN THE CLASSROOM

• Who is an “expert”?

• Solidarity

• Support

• Tolerance

• Managing Different Reactions
IMPACT: IN PRACTICE

• Both ethnic majority and minority clients may present with their reactions to police violence
  • Expressing Emotions:
    • Fatigue
    • Fear
    • Sense of feeling overwhelmed
    • Angry
    • Hopeless
    • Helpless
    • Confused

• Raising Questions:
  • Will justice be served?
  • Is this an “epidemic”?
  • Is this really racism?
  • Is this being blown out of proportion?
IN PRACTICE

- Michael
  - “doesn’t make sense”
  - “it’s not fair”

- Patrick
  - “is it reasonable for people to be angry at me?”
  - “I am not responsible”

- Sara
  - “too much”

- FRUSTRATION
- RESIGNATION