Course Syllabus

Course Information

SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity and Community, Section 001
Fall 2012

Professor Contact Information

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PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.
Office: GR 2.532
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15-3:15 p.m. and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

An examination of the role race and ethnicity play in the social stratification of Americans in U.S. social institutions, including the economy, education, health care, and government, and of ways in which public policy addresses disadvantages of stratification.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objective is to gain a sociological understanding of the social meaning of race or ethnicity, the social construction of race and ethnicity, and their roles in multiracial and multiethnic societies. Closely related to this is understanding race or ethnicity in relation to inequities in wealth, occupation, education, social status, political power, and other resources and opportunities, and the relationship between inequities and social stratification. Students will be able to discuss the relevance of race and ethnicity to public policy.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Two texts are required: Race and Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives, by Martin N. Marger, Wadsworth; and Diversity in America, by Vincent Parrillo, Pine Forge Press. Both are available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Other readings will be available through Electronic Reserve in the McDermott Library. The password for the electronic reserve
readings will be handed out in class. Students will do further reading in peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly sources in preparation for the literature review assignment.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Students will write two take-home exams. Both will be in essay and short answer format. Exam questions will be handed out in class one week before the exams are due.

Students also will write three two-to-three-page literature reviews of scholarly sources, such as peer-reviewed journal articles, on a single topic related to religion in international development they will choose.

Instructions for all course assignments will be available on eLearning. Students will download and print the instructions and bring them to class. The instructor will go over all instructions in class.

Week 1
Orientation to the Course

Basic Sociological Concepts of Race and Ethnicity

Read: Ch. 1, “Introduction: Some Basic Concepts,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 2
Ethnic Stratification

Read: Ch. 2, “Ethnic Stratification: Majority and Minority,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Library Demonstration of Electronic Database Searches

Week 3
Prejudice and Discrimination

Read: Ch. 3, “Tools of Dominance: Prejudice and Discrimination,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Literature Review Topic due September 11th

Week 4
Assimilation and Pluralism

Read: Ch. 4, “Patterns of Ethnic Relations: Assimilation and Pluralism,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 5
Assimilation and Pluralism

Read: Ch. 1, “Perception and Reality,” Diversity in America
The “American Ethnic Hierarchy”

Read: Ch. 5, “Immigration and the Foundations of the American Ethnic Hierarchy,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 6
The “American Ethnic Hierarchy” Continued

Read: Continue Ch. 5, Race and Ethnic Relations

First Literature Review due October 2nd

Mid-Term Exam questions handed out October 4th

Week 7
Diversity of Americans

Read: Ch. 7, “Diversity in the Information Age,” and Ch. 8, “Intergenerational Comparisons,” Diversity in America

Mid-Term Exam due October 11th

Week 8
European Americans

Read: Ch. 10, “White Ethnic Americans,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 9
Jewish Americans

Read: Ch. 11, “Jewish Americans,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 10
Black Americans

Read: Ch. 7, “African Americans,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Second Literature Review due November 1st

Week 11
Latino Americans

Read: Ch. 8, “Hispanic Americans,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Week 12
Asian Americans and “Middle-Eastern Americans”

Read: Ch. 9, “Asian Americans,” Race and Ethnic Relations
Section on “Arab Americans” from Ch. 12, Race and Ethnic Relations
Week 13 No Class: Fall Break

Week 14
Multiculturalism

Read: Ch. 9, “Is Multiculturalism a Threat?”, and
Ch. 10, “Multiculturalism after 9/11,” Diversity in America

Third Literature Review due November 29th

Week 15
Responses to Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

Read: Ch. 12, “The Changing Context of American Race and Ethnic Relations: Current
and Future Issues,” Race and Ethnic Relations

Second Exam questions handed December 6th

Week 16
The Future of Immigration

Read: Ch. 11, “The Next Horizon,” Diversity in America

December 15th

Final Exam due

NOTE: Students will turn in their exams in the instructor’s office (GR 2.532) at the start of
the regularly scheduled class time (1:00 p.m.).

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals
100%) for the course grade follows.

60%: the two exams combined
30%: the three literature reviews combined
10%: attendance

Note: Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss
more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example,
being out sick) and provide proper documentation.

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A   = 94-96
A-  = 90-93
B+  = 87-89
B  = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+  = 77-79
C   = 74-76
C-  = 70-73
D+  = 67-69
D   = 64-66
D-  = 60-63
F   = 59 and below

Course & Instructor Policies

Students must submit hard copies of all assignments in class on the due dates; late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor. No electronic submissions will be accepted, unless the student is absent from class and has a legitimate reason for being absent. This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness, since students work hard to submit work on time.

Class attendance is required. The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.

http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies