SOC 168.11 INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2009

Location: CHSS 110

Time: T/TH 11:00-12:20 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller

Office: CHSS, Room 270M
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       Huntsville, TX 77341-2446

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  * E-Mail is usually the best way to contact me.

Office Hours: T/TH 2:00-3:15pm
              or by appointment

Course Description: In this introductory course students will explore ethnicity, race, religious affiliation and gender using sociological concepts. The main theories used to understand minority studies will be introduced and students will examine the histories and current circumstances of the principal minority groups in the U.S.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to:
  - explain basic sociological principles, concepts and issues related to race/ethnic/gender studies
  - better understand contemporary events and trends as they reflect minority issues such as prejudice and discrimination
  - apply course material in an examination of current events in an increasingly diverse U.S. society.


Attendance: SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. If you arrive more than 10 minutes after the start of class, you will be counted absent. If you leave more than 10 minutes before the end of class, you will be counted absent. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused or to make-up exams. Attendance will be taken into consideration if your final
average is on the cusp between letter grades. Your semester average may be rounded up if it is within two points of the higher letter grade AND you have no more than two absences.

**Exams and Grading Plan:** The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook AND the material discussed in class. Although much of the class lectures will refer to the text, new material will also be introduced. You are expected to read and study the textbook independently. Information discussed in class, as well as that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams.

**Weekly Reflection:** each week you will be required to write a **weekly reflection** (several sentences) related to the material covered in class and/or in the text. This will be done in class. **You must be in class to participate.** Each reflection will be worth 6.6 points. There are 16 weeks of class, but only 15 weeks will be counted. This allows you to miss one during the semester. Fifteen weeks 15 x 6.6 points each totals 99 points.

**Exams:** there will be four equally weighted exams. These will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. On exam day, you must bring a scantron to take the test. Each exam will be worth 100 points (4 x 100 = 400). All exam grades will factor into your final grade.

Make-up exams will be given only if arranged with the professor **PRIOR** to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and **ONLY** if the reason for the absence is deemed valid by the professor. **Documentation for absences must be provided** to make-up assignments, quizzes or exams.

**Extra credit:** A ten (10) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will involve watching a movie and answering a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided. Other extra credit opportunities may be announced in class. If you do not attend class, you will miss out on these.

**Final grades** will be calculated by adding points earned from Weekly Reflections (15 x 6.6 = 99), all four exam grades (possible 100 points each = 400), plus any extra credit points earned and dividing this total by 5.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment (plagiarism) is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat or plagiarize will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. **See Student Syllabus Guidelines [http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/).**

**Americans with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to
discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then meet with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations may be made. **This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.** See Student Syllabus Guidelines [http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See Student Syllabus Guidelines [http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor if arranged prior to the class session. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office. See Student Syllabus Guidelines [http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)

**Instructor Evaluations:** Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. This feedback is important. It is used by professors to improve their teaching. Please participate in the evaluation process.

**Assignments:** Work for this class will consist of reading the text, attending class, taking notes, studying the text and class notes for the quizzes and exams. Once a week you will be required to provide a Weekly Reflection. You will also have some in-class exercises to help you understand the material.

**Required Supplies:** You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly and frequently for announcements and course materials.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan. 13, 15</td>
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<td>Chapter 1 (contd.)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb. 3, 5</td>
<td>Chapter 3, Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 12</td>
<td>Chapter 4 (contd.), Exam #1</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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Week 7  Feb. 24, 26  Chapter 6
Week 8  March 3, 5  Chapter 7, Exam #2
Week 9  March 10, 12  Spring Break
Week 10 March 17, 19  Chapter 8
Week 11 March 24, 26  Chapter 9
Week 12 March 31, April 2  Chapter 10
Week 13 April 7, 9  Chapter 11, Exam #3
Week 14 April 14, 16  Chapter 12
Week 15 April 21, 23  Chapter 13
Week 16 April 28, 30  Chapter 14
Week 17 May 5, 7  Chapter 14, Exam Review
Finals Week May 12, 14  Exam #4 5/14/09 @ 11:00-1:00pm

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

1) Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
2) Please do not talk while the professor, or another classmate, is speaking. Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk while others are talking as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
3) Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two points from your next exam. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom. This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
4) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
5) Computers may be used to take notes only.
6) Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
7) Students may record lectures with the professor’s approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. See Student Syllabus Guidelines http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.