

Sociology 168.14
Introduction to Ethnic Studies
(3 credit hours)

Fall 2009
T/Th 12:30-1:50 PM, CHSS 210

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Course Description:

In this introductory class, we will examine a variety of social categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and religious affiliation from a sociological perspective. Often these social categories are simply understood as ways to classify people. However, through a sociological lens, we see that such categories actually influence our lives and experiences in a more fundamental way—that is, they shape the structure of US society in ways that privilege (and marginalize) certain societal members in their everyday experiences. Using a sociological framework, this class explores a variety of social categories in both historical and contemporary US settings. The hope is by taking this class students will learn to ask questions to often taken-for-granted societal norms and ideologies and start thinking critically. This course requires no prerequisite class.

In this class, we will use a pedagogical approach known as cooperative learning. Cooperative learning is a form of instruction that believes that learning is an active endeavor and students learn best when they are involved in the learning process whereby they can process and apply new ideas and concepts. Thus, in addition to using lectures, this class encourages students to work cooperatively and collaboratively in group discussions and exercises. Please note that your participation is vital to the success of this class.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand principal sociological concepts and theories that include minority-majority relations, stratification, prejudice and discrimination.

- Explain social categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality using a sociological framework.
- Develop “sociological imaginations” and apply sociological ideas and concepts to understand historical and contemporary US trends and phenomena.
- Learn to think critically when evaluating the ways that the social environment impacts people’s lives.

Required Text:

Parrillo, Vincent N. 2009. *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*, 9th ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Course Requirements:

1. *Participation (10%)*

All students are required to actively participate in class/group discussions and in-class exercises. This is part of your grade. Please note that participation includes careful listening, as well as sharing ideas and questions. I expect all students to create an environment that encourages the participation of everyone in the class.

2. *Pop Quizzes (15%)*

There will be 4 pop quizzes throughout the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage students to complete the readings and reflect upon the readings. The average of three out of the four quizzes will be calculated and will contribute to 15% of your final grade. Therefore, students are permitted to miss or drop one quiz. If you miss one of the four quizzes, the other three quizzes will be counted. If you complete all four quizzes, then your three highest grades will be counted. There will be no make-ups for pop quizzes.

3. *Three Exams (75%)*

There will be three exams. These exams will be a multiple-choice format and will test you on material from readings, lectures, films and class/group discussions. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade (in total of 75%). I will provide a study guide prior to each exam. All exams must be taken in-class at the scheduled time. Once the first student leaves, no new exams may be started.

Classroom Policies and Expectations:

Attendance and Participation Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled class meetings. Students must realize that it is your responsibility if you are absent from or late to class. This means that you must arrange to get lecture notes and handouts from other students in the class. Neither I nor my TA will provide lecture notes or handouts. Also, students need to be aware that you are responsible for all announcements made during class, any class/group discussions we have, and films shown during class meetings. If you miss a film, you are responsible for arranging and watching it on your own. Participation in class requires that you be present in class, be prepared by having read the course readings, and contribute to class/group discussions and in-class exercises.

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to complete the reading assignment prior to coming to class. In doing so, students can ask questions in class, better understand the lecture, and actively participate in class and group discussions and other in-class activities.

Lecture Notes

Lecture notes will *not* be posted online. It is my belief that learning the materials entails engaging with it. Put differently, students learn the best when they are at present in class and listening, reflecting, questioning, and writing the materials down on their own. Downloading lectures discourages all of these learning activities.

Classroom Behavior

Students' participation in class and group discussions is an important component of this class. However, all discussions should be presented in a way that is respectful to each other. In consideration of the other students in the class and the professor, you are not allowed to text message or answer cell phone calls during class. You are also required to arrive on time for class and attend the entire class period.

Make-up Policies

No make-up pop-quizzes will be given. Only if a student misses a scheduled exam and has a medical excuse or some other pre-arranged official excuse, s/he will be able to make it up. To make up an exam, students are required to notify the professor no later than 24 hours after the exam, and provide a valid excuse (e.g., doctor's note from a hospital). Students who fail to contact the professor in a timely manner will receive a zero for the exam. Please note that make-up exams may differ from the original exam and may include essays or other questions that require written answers.

Students with Disabilities

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

If you have a disability please come talk with me and notify the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at the beginning semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Students who participate in academically dishonest activities should be aware that they will receive an F for the course *at the minimum*.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. 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.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor form toward the end of the semester.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Exam 1 25%
- Exam 2 25%
- Exam 3 25%
- Quizzes 15%
- Participation 10%

Grading will be on the straight scale. The scale is:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

0-59% = F

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Changes in the schedule may occur and will be announced in class. Students are responsible for keeping up with the modified schedule.

Date	Topic	Reading Pages
Week 1		
8/25	Introduction to the course	
8/27	Chapter 1: The Study of Minorities	1-21
Week 2		
9/1	Chapter 1: The Study of Minorities	21-28
9/3	Chapter 2: Culture and Social Structure	30-50

Week 3		
9/8	Chapter 2: Culture and Social Structure	50-58
9/10	Chapter 3: Prejudice and Discrimination	60-80
Week 4		
9/15	Chapter 3: Prejudice and Discrimination	80-90
9/17	Chapter 4: Intergroup Relations	92-103
Week 5		
9/22	Chapter 4: Intergroup Relations	103-123
9/24	Exam 1	
Week 6		
9/29	Chapter 5: Northern and Western Europeans	126-155
10/1	Chapter 5: Northern and Western Europeans	155-164
	Chapter 6: Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans	166-180
Week 7		
10/6	Chapter 6: Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans	180-210
10/8	Chapter 7: The Native Americans	210-238
Week 8		
10/13	Chapter 7: The Native Americans	238-256
10/15	Chapter 8: East and Southeast Asian Americans	258-291
Week 9		
10/20	Chapter 8: East and Southeast Asian Americans	291-300
	Chapter 9: Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans	302-312
10/22	Chapter 9: Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans	312-334
Week 10		
10/27	Chapter 10: Black Americans	336-357
10/29	Chapter 10: Black Americans	357-380
Week 11		
11/3	Chapter 11: Hispanic Americans	382-401
11/5	Chapter 11: Hispanic Americans	401-423
Week 12		
11/10	Exam 2	
11/12	Chapter 12: Religious Minorities	426-452

Week 13

11/17	Chapter 12: Religious Minorities	452-465
11/19	Chapter 13: Women as a Minority Group	468-480

Week 14

11/24	Chapter 13: Women as a Minority Group	480-498
11/26	No Class Thanksgiving	

Week 15

12/1	Chapter 14: Gays, People with Disabilities and the Elderly	500-518
12/3	Chapter 14: Gays, People with Disabilities and the Elderly	518-535

Week 16

12/8	Chapter 15: The Ever-Changing US Mosaic	538-554
12/10	Chapter 15: The Ever-Changing US Mosaic	554-573

Exam 3 is scheduled during the final week.