

SOC 168.04 CID # 4056

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2009

CLASS LOCATION AND TIME: CHSS 110; Mo, We, Fr 12:00 – 12:50

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Olena Leipnik

Office location: CHSS 270 J

Office hours: Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr 8:30-9:30 am, or by appointment

Office Phone: (936) 294-40-87

E-mail: oxl001@shsu.edu

COURSE DISCRIPTION

The course introduces the issue of social diversity in the USA, primarily race and national. Immigration of different national groups to the USA, the processes of their assimilation and creation of a common rich and unique American culture are investigated in both historical and contemporary contexts.

The core point of the course is to familiarize you with the way that the American society and the government policies have created equal rights and opportunities for people with different cultural backgrounds, and taken steps to overcome racism, ethnocentrism, negative stereotypes, including those that concern social groups traditionally considered to be 'minorities' such as elderly people, people with special needs, persons with differing sexual orientations, religious minorities, and women.

Methods used in this course will be lectures, reading assignments, group discussions (in-class and online via Blackboard), viewing videos related to the course, testing (exams and quizzes).

No prerequisite courses are required. Although the course is not prerequisite to any of the others, students are strongly urged to take it before attempting other Ethnic Studies courses.

REQUIRED TEXT

Parillo, Vincent N. (2006) Strangers to These Shores, 9th edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
ISBN-13: 978-0-205-58557-1

GRADING

Exams. There are **three exams**, each of them is worth of 100 points. Exams are based on the material in the textbook and that is discussed in class. 10 bonus points will be on each exam based on videos and/or outside sources.

If you are tardy for an exam, you will be allowed to take it but only if you start before the first person in the class completes it. **Make-up exams** will be allowed in extraordinary cases if you contact the instructor prior the exam, and provide a documentary evidence. Make-up exams are different from the regular ones.

Quizzes. There will be three 10 point quizzes with 5 multiple choice questions (see the Course Outline & Calendar for dates of quizzes).

Blackboard Discussion. There will be a Blackboard based discussion worth up to 20 points based on **up to 5** points for each item posted during the course of the discussion for up to 4 items. You can post more than 4 items, however only first 4 of them will be graded.

Extra credit. Students wishing to obtain extra credit can with the permission of the instructor write a mini-research paper on an approved topic for up to 25 points credit. The detailed instruction about the paper will be provided in class, and posted on Blackboard.

Grade chart:

In general it is possible to get 350 points.

A – minimum 315 - 350 points

B – minimum 280 - 314 points

C – minimum 245 - 279 points

D – minimum 210 – 244 points

F – 209 and less (I hope you **won't** get it!)

COURSE / INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

Toward the end of the semester students are asked to complete the course and instructor evaluation. Any suggestions and feedback that you think can improve the collaboration in the classroom are highly appreciated anytime during all the semester. E-mail me: oxl001@shsu.edu, or come by office.

ATTENDANCE POLICY¹ & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A roll is going to be taken at every class meeting as is required by university policy. Try not to be late to class. If you are late, you still may come in. If you need to leave early, it is better to get the instructor's permission prior to the class.

Classroom rules of conduct²

All students with no exceptions are expected to know and follow the rules of conduct for students at SHSU.

The rules of conduct in a classroom are simple and reasonable:

¹ According to *SHSU Academic Policy Statement 800401*
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf

² According to the *Code of Student Conduct and Discipline*
<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

- Show respect for other students' personalities, opinions and feelings.
- Participate in class activities and do assignments.
- Do not have side conversations. Although questions and comments during discussions are very welcome.
- Do not use electronic devices, including cell-phones.
- Maintain cleanness and order in a classroom. No food/drinks are allowed in the CHSS building classrooms.

All this comes down to a one powerful word: **respect**

Academic Honesty

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. Penalties may include but are not limited to receiving no points on the assignment with which the academic dishonesty was associated, reduction of one or more levels in the ultimate course grade (say from a B to a C or D) , or in serious cases receiving a failing grade in the course.

Americans With Disabilities Act

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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holydays

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. 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.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors In The Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Book chapter
Week 1 Aug 24 – 28	Introduction to course Study of minorities	1
Week 2 Aug 31 – Sep 4	Culture and Social Structure	2
Week 3 Sep 8 -11	Prejudice and Discrimination Quiz 1	3
Week 4 Sep 14 – 18	Intergroup Relations	4
Week 5 Sep 21 – 25	European Americans: Northern and Western Europeans Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	5
Week 6 Sep 28 – Oct 2	European Americans: Southern, Central and Eastern Europe	6
Week 7 Oct 5 – 9	The Native Americans	7
Week 8 Oct 12 – 16	Black Americans Quiz 2 (Chapter 7)	10
Week 9 Oct 19 – 23	Hispanic Americans	11
Week 10 Oct 26 – 30	East and Southeast Asian Americans	8
Week 11 Nov 2 – 6	Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 9, 10, 11)	9
Week 12 Nov 9 -13	Religious minorities	12
Week 13 Nov 16 – 20	Women as a Minority Group Quiz 3	13
Week 14 Nov 23 – 24	Women as a Minority Group Nov 25, 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Holydays	13
Week 15 Nov 30 – Dec 4	Gays, People with Disabilities and the Elderly Discussion	14
Week 16 Dec 7 – 11	The Ever Changing U.S. Mosaic Final examination questions review	15
Week 17 Dec 14,15,16,17	Exam 3 study day Exam 3 (Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15) is going to be scheduled later for one of the days: May 11, 12, 13, 14	-

The course outline is tentative and may be a subject to revision

