

SOC 168.07 INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2009

Location: CHSS 210

Time: M/W 12:00-1:20 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller

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Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00 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.

Required Text: Parrillo, Vincent N. 2008. Strangers To These Shores. **Ninth Edition**. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Attendance: SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. You will receive 1.5 points for each class you attend. 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.

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.

Attendance: You will receive 1.5 points for each class you attend. Attendance will be taken by circulating a roster with signature lines. If you do not sign it, you will be counted absent. (30 classes x 1.5 = **45 points**)

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 3 points. There are 15 weeks of class x 3 points each totals **45 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.

Film Assignment: A ten (**10**) point film assignment will be made available during the semester. This will involve watching a movie during one class period and answering a short quiz on the movie in the following class meeting. A study guide will be provided.

Final grades will be calculated by adding points earned from Weekly Reflections (15 x 3 = 45), Attendance (30 x 1.5 = 45), Film Assignment (10 points), all four exam grades (possible 100 points each = 400), plus any extra credit points earned and dividing this total by 5.

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. Cheating (copying) 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. For further information please see SHSU Academic Policy Statement 810213 and *Student Syllabus Guidelines* <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/>

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/>

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/>

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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| Week 1 | Aug. 24, 26 | Intro to course, Ch. 1 |
| Week 2 | Aug. 31, 2 | The Study of Minorities Ch. 1 (contd.) |
| Week 3 | Sept. 7, 9 | Culture and Social Stratification Ch. 2 |

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| Week 4 | Sept. 14, 16 | Prejudice and Discrimination Ch. 3 |
| Week 5 | Sept. 21, 23 | Intergroup Relations Ch. 4, Exam #1 |
| Week 6 | Sept. 28, 30 | Northern & Western Europeans Ch. 5 |
| Week 7 | Oct. 5, 7 | Southern, Central, Eastern Europeans Ch. 6 |
| Week 8 | Oct. 12, 14 | Native Americans Ch. 7, Exam #2 |
| Week 9 | Oct. 19, 21 | East & Southeast Asian Americans Ch 8 |
| Week 10 | Oct. 26, 28 | Other Asian, Middle Eastern Americans Ch 9 |
| Week 11 | Nov. 2, 4 | Black Americans Ch 10 |
| Week 12 | Nov. 9, 11 | Hispanic Americans Ch 11, Exam #3 |
| Week 13 | Nov. 16, 18 | Religious Minorities Ch 12 |
| Week 14 | Nov. 23, 25 | Women as a Minority Group Ch 13 |
| Week 15 | Nov. 30, 2 | Gays, People with Disabilities, Elderly Ch 14 |
| Week 16 | Dec. 7, 9 | Chapter 14 (contd), Exam Review |

Monday, December 14 2:00-4:00pm Exam #4

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 or during films. **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. You must sit in the first two rows of the classroom if you use a computer.
- 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.