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SOC 168. 8

INTRODUCTION
TO
ETHNIC STUDIES

DR. SUJEY VEGA

CHSS 110
MW 2-3:20 PM
Fall 2009
3 Credit Hours



Office Hours:
 Mon. 12:30-1:30 & 3:30-4:30
 Fri. 1-3pm
 or by appointment

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 Office Hours: M-F 8-9AM



What is Ethnic Studies?
 Does race, gender, and ethnicity still matter?
ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?

Course Objectives:

- * Recognize the ways each and every one of us are carefully taught how to perceive each other.
- * Together we will critically analyze and combat the subtle ways stereotypes enter our mind.
- * Identify the legacy of racism and inequality in our society.
- * Learn the struggle for social justice through history.
- * Gain factual knowledge & integrate fundamental principles of Sociology to understanding race, ethnicity, and gender in the United States.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of Ethnic Studies and examines race, religion, ethnicity, and gender from a sociological perspective. Designed to provide students with critical awareness, this course conveys insight and appreciation for the wide-ranging diversity of human populations. Drawing on historical and contemporary experiences, we will come to understand the role of privilege and prejudice in the United States. We will utilize basic sociological principles to help us understand these topics better. By the end of the semester we will become informed, reflective, critical thinkers that can identify inequity in the world around them and appreciate communities distinct from their own.

COURSE READINGS

Primary Course Readings: Course readings will be provided on Blackboard in PDF format and/or weblinks. Students **must** read these online readings for the days assigned on the syllabus. Readings will be marked in Blackboard by the week and dates you will be expected to read them.

Textbook: The textbook will be used to supplement the materials discussed in class and provides sociological principles to these topics. Vincent N. Parrillo. 2008. *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*. Allyn & Bacon; 9th edition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular, punctual attendance: Attendance at all lectures is expected. Treat each class meeting with the same level of commitment, preparation, and attentiveness that you would a professional meeting. Regular attendance is critical to your learning and demonstrates your professionalism. If you are unable to commit to taking the class, it is advisable to wait until you are able to make the commitment. Please do not schedule doctor or dental appointments, meetings, etc. during class time..

Attendance will be taken at all class meetings. Absence from class will result in zero credit for quizzes, exams, or exercises covered that day. If you miss class for whatever reason, you do not get the benefit of the day's discussion and activities. *A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence.* Each absence after the third shall result in the **reduction of the final grade**. Tardiness and cell phone/electronic usage during class may be counted as an absence. If cell phones ring during the class time, Dr. Vega reserves the right to answer on your behalf.

Attending class means you are actively alert and you are in class for the duration of the entire class period. Students who are not present within 5 minutes of the start of class will be counted absent. Do not come in late, leave early, or come and go from the class lecture. Students will be required to sign their names on the roster, falsified signatures will result in immediate disciplinary action. Should a medical emergency or sever illness occur, your absence will be evaluated by me on a case-by-case basis. Because I calculate absences at the end of the semester, do not ask me how many absences you have accumulated. It is your responsibility to track your absences.

Reading Comprehension Questions (Comps): To get the most out of this course, you must actively take ownership of your learning process. You are expected to complete assigned readings **before** the class in which they will be discussed. In class we will expand upon and contextualize the readings rather than recap them. I **WILL NOT** post my lectures online. Instead, students are **REQUIRED** to read the texts and keep up with lectures with readings on blackboard.

To keep you on task with your readings, there will be reading and lecture quizzes during the semester. **Reading Comprehension Questions (Comps)** can come at the beginning, middle, or end of class and will cover a variety of topics from the readings. Students should expect that Comps will be given on a weekly basis. The total points earned in Comps will have the **same weight as one exam** (100 pts). For more details on grading see Comps sheet on Blackboard.

Important Note: In class Comps CANNOT be made up.

Comps Grades

✓ + (100 pts)

✓ (75 pts)

- (50 pts),

Exams: There will be 2 semester exams and one final (3 total exams). Each exam will test your knowledge of the course materials (readings and lecture notes). Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points toward the final grade. You are expected to keep up with the material covered in class and study the readings independently. Information discussed in class and that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams. Exams will combine multiple choice, identification, and true/false questions. A review sheet will be posted on blackboard at least a week prior to the exam.

******Very Important Note:** Make-up exams **will not be** offered due to an absence. Only cases of death, severe illness, or other extraordinary circumstances are satisfactory reasons for missing an exam. I will not grant requests to take exams at alternative times to accommodate a personal issue unless it satisfies one of the excused reasons outlined above [e.g., weddings, divorce proceedings, traffic court dates or traffic for that matter do not count as reasons that I will accommodate]. Understand that you will receive a zero for an exam if you miss an exam for reasons other than the ones I have outlined.

Extra Credit

A 5-point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. Students will be expected to view a film (from a list ava. on blackboard) on their own time and take a quiz over the film on blackboard. Additionally a 3-point extra-credit opportunity is offered for an essay reflecting participation in local campus or community events. These points will be added to the final breakdown of your grade – for example if you earn an 87 in the class you could have your grade bumped up to a 90 (A) if you have turned in an extra credit prior to the deadline. In order to receive credit, students will need to attend and write a one-page write-up communicating the relevance of these events to the course materials. Guidelines for these write-ups will be posted on blackboard for students wishing to participate. Events will be updated periodically and posted on my webpage. If students know of events related to the course, they are encouraged to contact me with the details. **(Limit 1 Write Up & 1 Quiz– All Write-Ups due Nov. 30)**

Grading

I do not negotiate grades nor do I discuss grades over email. If you have concerns about your grade or the course, please make an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I will not discuss these items during class, before class, or after class. I will not schedule an appointment to discuss your exam on the same day you receive the exam. A total of 400 points is possible for this course. Grades will be assessed according to the following:

4 Exams @ a possible of 100 pts each =	400
<u>10 quizzes @ a possible of 10 pts each =</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Possible Points for course	500

Final Letter Grade Breakdown

A = 450 – 500
B = 400-449
C = 350 - 399
D = 300 - 349
F = 299 and below

First Alert & Study Skills Sessions

The Sam Center offers various programs to help students with their university experience. If a student is failing the course and/or has excessive absences she/he will be referred to the Sam Center and their *First Alert Program*. Additionally, their *Study Skills Session* can prove useful for meeting the expectations of this course. Please visit them in AB IV Suite 210 or online at: http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/

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. Academic dishonesty includes, 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.

For more on the university policy see: www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html

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. Students who need accommodations will need to register with visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.

For more on Americans with Disabilities Act see: www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/disabilities.html

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. 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: Unless otherwise approved, this instructor does not allow non-registered visitors in the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE

BB = Blackboard Readings TB = Textbook

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Unit #1 – Sociological Concepts & Their Application			
Aug. 24 - 28	Concepts of Sociology	Mon	Introduction to Course and Syllabus
		Wed	Study of Minorities (TB Ch 1) Culture and Social Structure (TB Ch 2)
Aug 31 – Sep. 4	Concepts of Sociology	Mon	What does it mean to be American (BB)
		Wed	Prejudice and Discrimination (TB Ch 3) Intergroup Relations (TB Ch 4)
Sep. 7-11	Concepts of Sociology	Mon	Alchemy & CRT Sections (BB)
		Wed	The Ever Changing Mosaic (TB Ch 15) Integrate Chapters and Test 1 Review
Unit #2 – Early American Peoples			
Sep. 14 - 18	Native Americans	Sep 14 -Mon	Unit #1 Test
		Wed	The Native American Experience – Smoke Signals
Sep. 21- 25	Initial Americans: Native Americans	Mon	Truth About Stories (BB)
		Wed	Native Peoples in America
Sep. 28 – Oct. - 2	North & Western European Immigrants	Mon	Websites on NW European Experience (BB)
		Wed	The NW European Immigrants

Oct. 5 -9	Being Black in the U.S.	Mon	Strivings of A Negro People – Du Bois (BB)
		Wed	Bellaire Shooting Article (BB) Being Black in the U.S.
Oct. 12 - 16	Combining these early Experiences	Mon	Eugenics; Tim Wise (BB)
		Wed	Overlapping histories& Test Review
Unit #3 – Expanding Our Notion of American Identity			
Oct. 19- 23	A Legacy of Latinas/os in the U.S.	Mon	Unit #2 Test
		Wed	The Latina/o Experience Burciaga & Anzaldúa (BB)
Oct. 26-30	A Legacy of Latinas/os in the U.S.	Mon	History and Legacy of Latinas/os
		Wed	Diversity within ethnicity (BB) Latino Politics in Contemporary America
Nov. 2-6	South, Central, & Eastern European Immigrants	Mon	Excerpts from The Jungle (BB)
		Wed	European Immigration Continues
Nov. 9-13	East and South Asian Presence	Mon	How You Never Lived Back Home (BB)
		Wed	A History of East/South Asian Americans Reconciling the Past with the Present (BB)
Unit #4– Contemporary Changes & Overlapping Experiences			
Nov. 16- 20	Middle Eastern Asian Americans	Mon	Unit #3 Test
		Wed	On Being Muslim American (BB) Presence of Americans of Middle Eastern Descent
Nov. 23 - 27	Religion	Mon	Religion (BB)
		Wed	Thanksgiving Holiday!!
Nov. 30 – Dec 4	Religion	Mon	Religion and the American experience
		Wed	Dr. Vega at Conference – class cancelled
Dec. 7-11	Gender & Sexuality	Mon	Intersectionality (BB)
		Wed	Gender & Sexuality in America Application of Sociological Concepts
Dec. 14-18	Finals Week – Unit 4 Final		

OUR AGREEMENT*

1. **I do not tolerate academic dishonesty.** If I find that you are cheating on a quiz or exam, or misrepresenting your work in some other way, this will result, minimally, in an automatic course grade of "F." SHSU prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and has additional conduct requirements: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>
2. **Readings (textbook and ethnography) must be completed BEFORE the lecture** on the day they are listed on the Class Schedule (p. 5). You will not gain from this course without both attending lectures and keeping up with readings. Check blackboard for readings and lecture notes.
3. This syllabus is subject to change. Should you be physically or mentally absent when such changes are announced, you are responsible for keeping up to date.
4. Taping of the lectures is not permitted.
5. Regarding **Respect, Courtesy, and Diversity**: I create an environment of mutual respect in the classroom and I expect every student to maintain this environment. Students will respect and expect a diversity of viewpoints in the classroom. Disciplinary action results if a student does not adhere to standards of respectful classroom conduct.
 - a. **Courtesy.** In class we will discuss the material with mutual respect and courtesy. Students will value diverse perspectives and will refrain from using offensive comments, inappropriate jokes, disruptive behavior and personal attacks.
 - b. **No side conversations.** This is disruptive and disrespectful to both me and your fellow classmates. If there is something that concerns you, you are free to talk to me after class.
 - c. **Entering and leaving class.** If you know in advance that you have to arrive late or leave class early, plan on not attending class that day as this is disruptive.
6. **Cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, etc.:** These wonderful advances in technology have also helped advance bad manners. Please turn off these devices when you arrive in class and put them away. If a student uses a cell phone during class, even to text message, he/she **will be asked to leave** the class for the day. Additionally, if you access Facebook, myspace, or any other site not affiliated with course materials or note taking, you will be asked to leave the class for the day.

*Dr. Vega reserves the right to ask a student to leave if they become disruptive or if they disregard this contract.

Cut here and turn in as an entrance slip to the following class:

I have received a copy of the syllabus. I have read and understand the policies of this course as stated in the syllabus and will abide by the course agreement described above:

Printed Name:	
Signature	Date