

SOC 168.09: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2009

Location: CHSS 210

Class Meeting Times: MWF 2:00 – 2:50

Instructor: Caron Charlton Cates

Office Location: CHSS, Room 270-S

Instructor Contact Information: Phone: 936-294-1961 (office); 936- 294-1512 (dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: SOC_CCC@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri - 11:30-1:00, 3:00 - 3:30 just prior or after class, (**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. There are no prerequisite courses. This class is predominantly a lecture class with four exams.

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

1. Explain fundamental sociological principles, concepts, and issues related to race/ethnic/gender studies.
2. Better understand the importance and significance of contemporary events and trends as they reflect minority issues such as prejudice and discrimination.
3. Apply course material in an examination of how your own reference groups fit in an increasingly diverse U.S. society.

Required Text: Vincent Parrillo, (2006) *STRANGERS TO THESE SHORES*, 9th Ed. Allyn Bacon/Longman.

Attendance Policy: I will take roll according to university policy. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present before 5 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who miss three or more classes will be penalized 3 points off of their total accumulated points for each class missed starting with their fourth absence. Students who do not miss any class days and are not late to any classes will earn an additional 5 points toward their total accumulated points. EX: 355+5= A.

Exams and Grading Plan: There will be four multiple-choice exams offered during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the weeks preceding the exam. These are not comprehensive exams. Make sure to attend class on exam days. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a make-up exam. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed on exam days. A total of 400 possible points will be available. Grades will be assigned according to the following chart:

Extra Credit: A five (5) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will be to watch the movie "A Class Divided" and answer a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided – Date to be announced in class.

Grade Chart:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| 400- 360 | - A |
| 359 - 320 | - B |
| 319 - 280 | - C |
| 279 – 240 | - D |
| 239-0 | - F |

Make up Exams: Make up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES.** In the event that a student could not attend one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through verifiable documentation. Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests. **Make-up day will be Friday, December 11th.**

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. Cheating on an exam, assignment and/or a class activity is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, assignment or class activity in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. 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.

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 should 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, and 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 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: 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.

Instructor Evaluations: Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Study Tips: Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has her own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

COURSE OUTLINE

August 24th - First class day

Introduction to the Sociological Framework

The Study of Minorities Chapter 1

September 7th - Holiday

Culture and Social Structure Chapter 2

Prejudice and Discrimination Chapter 3

Intergroup Relations Chapter 4

TEST ONE (Sept – 18th)

European Americans

Northern and Western Europeans Chapter 5

Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans Chapter 6

People of Color

The Native Americans Chapter 7

TEST TWO (Oct - 9th)

East and Southeast Asian Americans Chapter 8

Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans Chapter 9

Black Americans Chapter 10

Hispanic Americans Chapter 11

TEST THREE (Nov - 6th)

Other Minorities

Religious Minorities Chapter 12

Women as a Minority Group Chapter 13

November 25, 26, 27 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty.

Trends and Possibilities

Gays, People with Disabilities, and the Elderly Chapter 14

The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic Chapter 15

FINAL EXAM (date as determined by university schedule)

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. **As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask any student or students to leave class if I believe that their behavior is disruptive to the class and the learning environment.** In other words, come to class prepared and be respectful to other students. Any other behavior will not be tolerated. **First offense will be a verbal warning, second offense written warning, third offense 2 point deduction, fourth – 4 point, fifth -6 point etc.**

For class discussion to run smoothly, all cell phones must be turned off during class time. I also ask if you hold a position which requires you to wear a firearm, such as police officers, you must remove your firearms prior to coming to class; in other words, no guns or other “types on weapons” in class.