

SOC 168.01: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Summer I

Location: CHSS 110 **Class Meeting Times:** TTH 9:30 to 10:50 AM

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Davis **Office Location:** CHSS 270 N

Instructor Contact Information: 936-294-4083 (office); 936- 294-1512 (Dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: mad011@shsu.edu

Office Hours: T Th 11-12 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, (2008) *STRANGERS TO THESE SHORES*, 9th Ed. Allyn Bacon/Longman. Students have the responsibility of obtaining the text at the beginning of the semester.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is factored into your grade (**25 points**). (2 or less absences: 25 points; 3 absences = 20 points; 4 absences = 15 points; 5 absences = 10 points; 6 absences = 5 points; 7 absences = 0 points). Therefore, if you do not attend class, you will receive a lower grade. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, are counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting.

Exams and Grading Plan: There will be **four equally weighted exams** (100 points each for a semester total of **400**). These will consist of multiple-choice questions. On exam day, you must bring a scantron. 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. Exams will be graded, and posted on Blackboard, one week following the exam. Correct test answers will be reviewed in class after posting on Blackboard. Test scantrons will be available in the instructor's office for the student to review or discuss during office hours or by appointment.

Make-up exams will be short answer 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.

Total semester points will equal 425. Final grades will be assigned as follows: A=382 to 425; B= 340/381; C= 297/339; D= 255/296; F= less than 254.

Extra Credit: Write a five-page double spaced, Times New Roman 12 font with 1” margins, your name and page number in the footer. Write a five-page double spaced, Times New Roman 12 font with 1” margins, your name and page number in the footer , on your family's ethnic background, as a public paper to be shared with classmates, based on genealogical research and your text (interviewing relatives, consult family histories). Relate it to the course material. Did they immigrate? If so describe the historical context of your family’s move to America. What were the migratory “push or pull” factors? Which ethnic cultural activities or practices have your family maintained? Did/does your family experience discrimination? Did/does your family attend religious events within your culture? What is the occupational niche(s) your family fills? Will this affect your major? Housing: Do you live in an ethnic enclave/ other cultural community? The paper is worth a maximum of **10 points** and is due on **October 15**. No late papers will be accepted.

There will also be other opportunities for extra credit which will be announced in class.

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.

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, 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.

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 25	Introduction Part 1: Sociological Framework. (Chapter 1)
August 27	The Study of Minorities (Chapter 1)
September 1/3	Cultures and Social Structure (Chapter 2)
September 8/10	Prejudice and Discrimination (Chapter 3)
September 15	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)
September 17/22	Dominant-Minority Relations (Chapter 4)
Part 2: European Americans	
September 24/29	Northern and Western Europeans (Chapter 5)
October 1	A Class Divided
October 6/8	Southern, Central and Eastern Europeans (Chapter 6)
Part 3: People of Color	
October 13/15	East and Southeast Asian Americans (Chapter 8)
October 15	Extra Credit Paper Due
October 20	Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans (Chapter 9)
October 22	Exam 2 (Chapters 5,6, 8 & 9)
October 27/29	The Native Americans (Chapter 7)

November 3/5	Black Americans (Chapter 10)
November 10/12	Hispanic Americans (Chapter 11)
November 17	Exam 3 Chapters: 7, 10, 11)
Part 4: Other Minorities	
November 19	Religious Minorities (Chapter 12)
November 24 Dec. 1	Women as a Minority Group (Chapter 13)
November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 3/8	Gays, People with disabilities and the Elderly (Chapter 14)
December 10	The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic (Chapter 15);
December 14/18	Final Exam per SHSU exam schedule; Exam Four/Final (Chapters 12-15) plus fundamental concepts used throughout semester)

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. During class, no electronic equipment is permissible unless required by a disabling condition. This means no cell phones use; no text messaging; no audio equipment or earpieces during class or exams.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.