

**SOC 168.18: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2009**

**Location: Internet Class Meeting Times: No Class Meetings – All Internet-Based**

**Instructor: Caron Charlton Cates**

**Office Location: CHSS Building – room 270S**

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

**Office Hours:** - I can be reached via e-mail Monday – Friday from 10:00 – 6:00. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them or you can set up an appointment with me online.

**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 web based class with four exams.

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

- Explain fundamental sociological principles, concepts, and issues related to race/ethnic/gender studies.
- Better understand the importance and significance of contemporary events and trends as they reflect minority issues such as prejudice and discrimination.
- 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

This is an internet course. Students are required to have a SHSU student identification card and a SHSU email account in order to enroll in the class. The SHSU email account is necessary to access Blackboard which is the software used for the course. The class is conducted completely over the Blackboard system. Blackboard is available under University Fast Links in the SHSU web page. To log on, type your SHSU email address and your password. Once in Blackboard, click on SOC 168 and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item you wish to see to get the necessary information. For this class, the Announcements, Course Information, and Course Documents tabs will be used the most. For example, click on Course Information and you can find the class syllabus. The Announcements tab is where you can keep up with day to day information about the class. I will give you reminders of when the exams are to be taken and when the extra credit opportunities are due. The Course Documents tab is where you find short overviews of the chapters in the textbook. The extra-credit opportunities are explained under the Assignments tab. Your four exams will also be available in the Assignments tab. You grades will be available under the Online Gradebook tab.

**Course Notes:** Attendance Policy: This is an internet class so no attendance records are kept.

**Exams and Grading Plan:** Exams: There will be four exams worth 100 points each during the semester. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Your exams will be available under the Assignments tab on the days they are to be taken. The four tests are on August 17-18, Sept. 8-9, Oct. 5-6, and the last exam will be on Dec. 9-10.

You will have between 8:00 a.m. on the first day until 10:00 p.m. on the second day to take the exam. You will have only 90 minutes to complete each exam. The exams are open-note exams but you must complete the exam in 90 minutes or you will be penalized 2 points for each minute past 90 minutes.

You can only take each exam once so be sure to answer all of the exam questions before you submit the exam. Also be sure to have a secure internet connection. Dial-up phone line connections are not secure and tend to kick you off the Internet. In the event that a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a make-up exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

**Make up Exams:** Make up exams will be allowed ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES. In the event that a student could not take one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Make-up exam date will be Wednesday, Dec. 9th. Remember make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests.

**Quizzes:** Throughout the semester, six quizzes (worth five points each) will be given. You will only be responsible for 5 of the 6 quizzes. I will take your 5 best scores. Quizzes will be made up of multiple choice questions. More on quizzes to follow.

Quiz dates and discussion dates will be posted on the Blackboard calendar by Aug. 24th.

**Discussion Groups:** At six points throughout the semester, students will be asked to participate in discussion groups (again, your only responsible for 5/6 discussion rooms and will take your 5 best scores). Each discussion group is worth 5 points, making up the total 25 points for class participation. Discussion groups will be open for one week windows, so that students with busy schedules will have ample time to participate. In order to do well in discussion groups, students will need to be familiar with the readings/notes prior to participating. More on this will follow in the semester.

**Extra Credit Project:**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Students can obtain (10) extra credit points by writing an essay on the following topic. This essay should be 1000 words or greater. Essays of less than 1,000 words will not be taken into consideration. E-mail your essays to (SOC\_CCC@shsu.edu) by (Dec 1st)

**TITLE OF ESSAY:** Films, music, literature, and philosophy are all cultural expressions that reflect human values and the social contexts within which they are created. For this essay, select a film, a musical piece, a work of literature or philosophy at your discretion and discuss its social

and cultural dimensions. Additionally, stress how this work of the arts or humanities has enriched your personal intercultural experience and/or that of your community.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on the following:

Exam #1 100 points  
Exam #2 100 points  
Exam #3 100 points  
Exam #4 100 points  
Quizzes 25 points  
Discussion Groups 25 points  
Extra Credit 10 points

Final grades will be based on the total number of points in the class:

450 - 405 - A  
404 - 360 - B  
359 - 315 - C  
314 - 270 - D  
269 - 0 - F

**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.

**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 recommend that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

First Class – Aug 24

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

Dominant-Minority Relations Chapter 4

TEST ONE (Sept 17-18)

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 8-9)

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 5-6)

Other Minorities

Religious Minorities Chapter 12

Women as a Minority Group Chapter 13

Gays, People with Disabilities, and the Elderly Chapter 14

Trends and Possibilities

The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic Chapter 15

FINAL EXAM (Dec 9-10)

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.