

SOC 215
Race & Ethnic Relations in the United States
Section 201 – Summer 2006

Class Information:

Lawson 221
MTWRF 11:00-12:00
Office hours: MTWR 12:30-2:00
or by appointment

Instructor Information:

Ruth Chananie (Sha-NAN-ee)
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Required Course Materials:

Parrillo, Vincent N. 2005. *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations* (2nd edition).
Boston: Pearson. ISBN 0205414826

- *There is a copy of Parrillo's book available at the library reserves desk for short-term checkout.*

Articles on Electronic Reserve (See Course Schedule)

Course Description: Race and Ethnic Relations examines the status of racial, ethnic, and cultural minority groups from sociological, historical, economic, and political perspectives. It is designed to expand knowledge of theory, research, and current events in regards to the relations of race, ethnicity, gender, and class in the United States. It is the intent of this course to introduce key topics, stimulate individual thought, and enhance the understanding of group interactions in American society.

Class Format: Lectures, class discussions, required readings, videos, and possibly guest presentations.

Course Objectives: Following satisfactory completion of this course, you will be able to (1) Demonstrate an understanding of such sociological concepts as assimilation, pluralism, ascribed and achieved status, prejudice and discrimination; (2) Display basic knowledge of historical, socioeconomic, and political demographics of various racial/ethnic groups in the United States; (3) Demonstrate critical thinking and understanding about different theories and perspectives pertaining to race, class, gender, and sexuality; and (4) Apply sociological concepts to the analysis of race and ethnicity to personal and/or familial experiences.

Class Policies & Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance: I will take attendance daily, and 70 points of your course grade are based on your attendance. You each get 3 “excused” days with no penalty; after these, you will lose 2 points per absence. In addition, there will be 6 pop quizzes during the semester on random days, worth 10 points each. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, so they will be worth 50 points total. If you miss a quiz day, you will receive a zero for that quiz.
2. Open door policy: I encourage all of you to see me outside of class, during office hours or by appointment, if you have any questions, or are experiencing difficulty with assignments or the course materials. *Do not hesitate* to ask for help - that is why I am here!
3. Electronic Equipment: Feel free to bring tape or digital recorders, and/or laptops to class. Please mute the volume on your laptops though.
4. Special Needs or Disabilities: See me if you need alternate testing, note taking, or assignment arrangements. I will do all I can to make sure your needs are met.
5. Missed Exams or Late Work: Any deadlines regarding written work or student meetings will be announced well in advance of due dates and late work is generally not acceptable in this course. **Late work will result in a 5-point deduction in your assignment grade per class day late.** If you miss an exam, notify me within 24 hours of the missed exam, and you will be able to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss your make-up exam, you will not be allowed to schedule a second date/time.
There will be no make-ups for the final exam.
6. Plagiarism: You should be aware of plagiarism in every assignment you write. Others’ ideas and quotes must be properly cited. I will give each of you a handout defining plagiarism. If you have any additional questions, please see me! Any work that has been plagiarized will receive a failing grade and may be turned in to the University as a violation of the student code of conduct that could result in expulsion from SIU.
7. Ground Rules to Keep in Mind: I encourage you to openly express your thoughts, ideas, and experiences, as you integrate these into your written assignments and/or group discussion. However, be respectful of the rights of others to their thoughts and opinions. As you express these, especially in class, do not use derogatory labels or “slurs” when referring to groups or individuals (whether they are present or not). Some topics in this class may be difficult or contentious, and although you have every right to express yourself, you must do it with respect for all others!! I expect every individual to follow these ground rules at all times.
8. My Pet Peeves: There are several aspects of classroom etiquette that I am most emphatic about.
 - Turn your cell phones OFF or silence them during class, please!!
 - Do not talk or have whispered conversations with your neighbors during class (including guest lectures, videos, and class discussions). This is EXTREMELY distracting to the rest of the class and to your instructor. If you *must* communicate with your neighbor, write notes silently or use sign language. I retain the right to ask you to leave if you fail to heed my requests to be quiet.

- Please refrain from monopolizing class discussions. Give others a chance to contribute!!
- Try not to “group-bash” or individualize systemic social problems during class discussions. Examples include stereotyping men or women, or racial groups, or homosexuals as a group without consideration for individual differences. No one in our class is a stereotype!! In other words, we can discuss these stereotypes and differences without personalizing them to each other. Okay?

Grading:

Attendance	70 pts.	Grading Scale:	A= 495 or greater
Movie Response Paper	30 pts.		B= 440-494
Exams	400 pts.		C= 385-439
Quizzes	<u>50 pts.</u>		D= 330-384
Total	550 pts		F= 329 or below

Exams: There will be four exams – worth 100 points each. Tests will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. These will cover all material read up to that point, plus additional information presented in lectures, videos, guest lectures, or class discussions. No make-ups for the final exam!

Quizzes: There will be six quizzes, given on random days during the semester. Five of these will count toward your final grade, so the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes are worth 10 points each, 50 points total.

Movie Analysis and Response: (30 points). Briefly, you are to choose a movie pertaining to race & ethnicity from a provided list, and write a 3-4 page response and analysis. A detailed instruction sheet will be provided.

Note on Course Schedule: I reserve the right to make (reasonable) changes to the course schedule if the need arises.

SOC 215 COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Topics	Required Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 June 12-16	Introduction to Race and Ethnicity: Major Concepts & Theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 1 • McIntosh, “White Privilege” (Handout) 	
Week 2 June 19-23	Race, Ethnicity, and Culture: Subcultures, Enclaves, White Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 2 • TBA 	Exam 1 Friday, June 23
Week 3 June 26-30	Ethnic Stratification: Class, Poverty, Welfare, Model Minority, Urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 3 • TBA 	
Week 4 July 3, 5-7 No Class July 4	Prejudice and Stereotyping: Historical Constructions, Media & Popular Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 4 • TBA 	Exam 2 Friday, July 7
Week 5 July 10-14	Discrimination: Criminal Justice System, Education and Work, Affirmative Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 5 • TBA 	
Week 6 July 17-21	Dominant-Minority Relations: Racial/Ethnic Identity, Social Psychology, Hate Groups & Hate Crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 6 • TBA 	Exam 3 Friday, July 21
Week 7 July 24-28	Current Issues in Race & Ethnicity: Immigration issues, Multiculturalism, Multiracialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrillo, Chapter 7 • TBA 	Movie Analysis Paper Due Friday, July 28
Week 8 July 31- Aug. 3	Course Wrap-up and Review		FINAL EXAM – Thursday, August 3, 2:00-3:50pm