

Sociology 215: Race & Ethnic Relations in the U.S. (3 cr. hrs.)

Section 1 Fall 2008

Instructor: Catherine Field

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Office Hours: Mon 1-3, Wed 10-12, Thur 11-1, Fri 1-3

COURSE FORMAT: Lectures, class discussion, audio-visual media, in-class exercises, and possibly guest speakers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as assimilation, pluralism, ascribed and achieved statuses, prejudice, and discrimination; (b) display basic knowledge of historical socioeconomic, and political demographics of the U.S.; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about different theories and perspectives pertaining to race, class, gender, and sexuality; and (d) apply sociological concepts for the analysis of race and ethnicity to personal and/or family experience.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The United States is an increasingly diverse society as witnessed by the changing demographics of race and ethnic relations. To be effective citizens, all students will need exposure to the sociology, history and culture of a variety of ethno-racial groups. Further, it is important for citizens in this globalizing world to understand how gender and class may shape people's experiences of race-ethnicity. Along with the academic content, the course will also focus on providing students with skills for effective communicating on these topics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Second Edition.* Joseph F. Healey. Published in 2007 by Pine Forge Press. There will be other readings assigned as well.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 50 pts. | Paper 1 |
| 100 pts. | Exam 1 |
| 100 pts. | Exam 2 |
| 50 pts. | Paper 2 |
| 100 pts. | Final exam |
| 100 pts. | Attendance/Participation |
| ----- | |
| 500 pts. | Total |

The grading scale will be as follows: A=450+, B=400+, C=350+, D=300+.

There will be three exams, of which any may be objective (multiple choice, for example) or subjective (essay) or both. Exams may include material from the textbook and readings as well as from the lecture. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be

completed within one calendar week of the test date. Additionally, there will be two short papers, due on specific dates, on topics to be assigned.

It is expected that all work submitted by the student (whether papers or tests) is her or his original work. Plagiarism of any sort will be dealt with in accordance with university policy.

8/18 Introduction

8/20 Chapter One: *Diversity in the United States*

8/22

8/25

8/27

8/29 Chapter Two: *Assimilation and Pluralism*

9/1 Holiday. No class.

9/3

9/5 Chapter Three: *The Development of Dominant-Minority Relations in the U.S.*

9/8 Paper One due.

9/10

9/12 Chapter Four: *Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations*

9/15

9/17

9/19 Exam 1

9/22 Chapter Five: *African Americans*

9/24

9/26

9/29

10/1 Chapter Six: *Native Americans*

10/3

10/6

10/8

10/10 Chapter Seven: *Hispanic Americans*

10/13

10/15

10/17

10/20 Chapter Eight: *Asian Americans*

10/22

10/24

10/27
10/29 Exam Two
10/31 Chapter Nine: *New Americans*

11/3
11/5 Paper Two due
11/7 Chapter Ten: *White Ethnic Groups*

11/10
11/12
11/14

11/17 Chapter Eleven: *Dominant-Minority Relations in Cross-National Perspective*
11/19
11/21

12/1
12/3 Chapter Twelve: *Minority Groups and U.S. Society*
12/5

Final exam to be announced. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. Any changes will be announced in class.

Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.