

**SOC 215**  
**Race & Ethnic Relations in the United States**  
**Spring 2008**

**Class Information:**

Parkinson 202  
TTh 9:35-10:50  
Office hours: M 11-1, T 4-6, Th 11-1  
*or by appointment*

**Instructor Information:**

Margaret Cooper  
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**Required Textbooks:** Healy, Joseph. 2004. *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender*. Pine Forge Press and Healy, Joseph and Eileen O'Brien. 2004. *Race, Ethnicity, and Gender: Selected Readings*.

**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 and videos.

**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.

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1. 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.**
2. 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.

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**Grading:**

Test 1 100 points  
Test 2 100 points  
Test 3 100 points  
Test 4 100 points  
Assignments 100 points

Your final grade will be based upon your average:

90-100 A  
80-89 B  
70-79 C  
60-69 D  
59 below F

**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, or class discussions. **No make-ups for the final exam!**

**Writing Assignments:** Your reader has chapters which correspond to your text. For each chapter, you will choose two small articles to summarize. You will be given five points each. You will not have to choose articles for chapter 11. Your summaries may be 1-2 pages and handwritten or typed. Further instructions will be given in class.

**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:**

Individuals with disabilities should contact the disabilities office so that we may be able to assist in ways necessary for the successful completion of the course. (<http://www.siu.edu/~dss/>)

**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 the BERT'S website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines 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.

## Tentative Class Schedule

Tues Jan 15---introduction to class  
Thurs Jan 17---Basic concepts (class lecture)

Tues Jan 22---Crash  
Thurs Jan 24---Discussion

Tues Jan 29---Chapter 1  
Tues Jan 31---ch. 1 continued

Tues Feb 5---Chapter 2  
Thurs Feb 7---Discussion of culture,

Tues Feb 12---Ch 3 and 4  
Thurs Feb 14---Test 1

Tues Feb 19---Discussion  
Thurs Feb 21---ch. 6 Native Americans

Tues Feb 26---Native Americans continued  
Thurs Feb 28---ch. 5 African Americans

Tues Mar 4---African Americans continued  
Thurs Mar 6---Test 2

## SPRING BREAK!!!

Tues Mar 18---ch. 7 Hispanic Americans  
Thurs Mar 20---Hispanic Americans continued

Tues Mar 25---Chinatown  
Thurs Mar 27---ch. 8 Asian Americans

Tues Apr 1---ch. 8 Asian Americans  
Thurs Apr 3---Asian Americans continued

Tues Apr 8---Discussion  
Thurs Apr 10---Test 3

Tues Apr 15---ch. 9 White Ethnic groups  
Thurs Apr 17---religious minorities

Tues Apr 22---ch. 10 a global view  
Thurs Apr 24---ch. 11

Tues Apr 29 and Thurs May 1---Articles and wrapup

Week of May 5<sup>th</sup>---Test 4