

SOC 168.07 INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES
Fall 2007
3 Credit Hours

Location: AB1, Room 304
Time: MW 12:00-1:30
Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller
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Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:30pm
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.

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

- explain basic sociological principles, concepts and issues related to race/ethnic/gender studies
- better understand contemporary events and trends as they reflect minority issues such as prejudice and discrimination
- apply course material in an examination of current events in an increasingly diverse U.S. society.

Required Text: Parrillo, Vincent N. 2006. Strangers To These Shores. Eighth Edition. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Blackboard: The syllabus and other documents will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly for announcements and course materials. The Discussion Board is a place where members of the class can engage in discussion. For some it is easier to express their views in this forum as opposed to the classroom setting. You may post anonymously. Lively discussion, as long as it remains respectful, teaches everyone involved.

Newspaper: You will be required to sign up to receive the daily news briefing e-mail messages from *The New York Times*. This is free. Routine reading of the newspaper in this format is required for class. Your knowledge of news items will allow you to participate in the class discussions and contribute to Discussion Board in Blackboard. There will be questions on the exams from the newspaper articles.

Assignments: Most of your work for this class will consist of reading the text, attending class, taking notes, studying the text and class notes for the exams. You will also have some in-class exercises to help you understand the material. There will be at least two extra credit assignments (described below in the Extra Credit section) due on **October 8, 2007** and **November 5, 2007**. No late assignments will be accepted.

Exams and Grading: 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.

Make-up 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.

There will be four equally weighted exams (25% each). These will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. On exam day, you must bring a scantron to take the test. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a **semester total of 400**. Final grades will be calculated by adding all four exam grades, plus any extra credit points earned and dividing this total by four.

Extra Credit: You will have several opportunities to earn extra credit points during the semester. Two of these will be Real World Analyses worth 5 points each. The format of each real world analysis assignment will be: to locate a current newspaper article(s) on a topic related to the course material. You will summarize the event or issue discussed in the article in your own words and link it to concepts in the textbook and/or lectures. Attach the article to your paper. Make sure you have noted the newspaper, date of article and page number. The first Real World Analysis is due on **October 8, 2007** and the second on **November 5, 2007**. **No late papers will be accepted**. Other opportunities to earn extra credit may be announced in class. If you do not attend classes you may miss out on these.

Attendance: SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused. Attendance will be taken into consideration if your final average is on the cusp between letter grades.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more

than once will receive an automatic F in the class. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

- 1) Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
- 2) Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. **Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two points from your next exam. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom.** This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
- 3) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
- 4) Computers may be used to take notes only.
- 5) Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
- 6) Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Instructor Evaluations: Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. This feedback is important. It is used by professors to improve their teaching. Please participate in the evaluation process.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Students with Disabilities Policy: 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 and then meet with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations may be made. **This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.** *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

COURSE OUTLINE

August	20, 22	Chapter 1
	27, 29	Chapter 2
September	no class, 5	Chapter 3
	10, 12	Chapter 3 (contd.)
	17, 19	Chapter 4
	24, 26	Exam #1 (1-4), Chapter 5
October	1, 3	Chapter 5/6
	8, 10	Real World #1 due, Chapter 8
	15, 17	Chapters 9
	22, 24	Exam #2 (5,6,8,9), Chapter 7
	29, 31	Chapter 10
November	5, 7	Real World #2 due, Chapter 11
	12, 14	Chapter 11, Exam #3 (7,10,11)
	19, Thanksgiving	Chapter 12
	26, 28	Chapter 12/13
December	3, 5	Chapter 14

**FINAL EXAM (Chapters 12-14, cumulative for basic concepts and facts.)
December 10, 2007 2:00-4:00p.m.**

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.