

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES
SOC 168 (section 14)
3 credit hours
Fall 2007

Class location: AB1, Room 304
Class meeting times: TU/TH 2:00 – 3:20

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Office hours

Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30 – 11:00; Wednesday: 2:00 – 3:00; and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnic relations.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of SOC 168, students will have increased their understanding of:

- the different theoretical perspectives that are used to guide the study of race and ethnic relations;
- the numerous research methods that are used in the study of race and ethnic relations;
- the various sociological concepts that are pertinent to the study of race and ethnic relations; and,
- the assorted historical and contemporary issues associated with race and ethnic relations in the United States.

Required Textbook

Students are expected to purchase the following book:

Parrillo, Vincent N. 2006. *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States* (8th edition). New York: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

Requirements and Grading

Part of the tradition of higher education is the need to evaluate performance. Each student's final course grade will be based upon his/her class attendance and performance on four examinations.

Class Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU. A record of class attendance will be kept and the final course grade will be negatively affected by excessive and/or not excusable absences. Detailed information on the class attendance policy will be provided during the first class meeting.

Four Exams (4 @ 25% each)

There will be four in-class exams. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

NOTE: No exam will be administered after the scheduled examination date. If a student cannot take the exam on the scheduled examination date, he/she must notify the instructor and make arrangements to take the exam early.

Grades

Grades will be based on a total of 400 points.

360 – 400 = A

320 – 359 = B

280 – 319 = C

240 – 279 = D

0 – 239 = 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. 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

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 are expected to 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, 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

Religious Holy Days

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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

A classroom serves as a backdrop for interaction between instructor and student and between/among students. Facts and opinions rooted in knowledge are exchanged in a classroom; opinions rooted in ignorance should not be shared.

Students are expected to act professionally at all times in the classroom. The use of cell phones and other communication devices in the classroom is prohibited.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Schedule of Discussions and Reading Assignments

Tuesday	Thursday
August 21 Chapter 1: The Study of Minorities	August 23 Chapter 1: The Study of Minorities
August 28 Chapter 2: Culture and Social Structure	August 30 Chapter 2: Culture and Social Structure Chapter 3: Prejudice and Discrimination
September 4 Chapter 3: Prejudice and Discrimination	September 6 Chapter 4: Dominant-Minority Relations
September 11 Chapter 4: Dominant-Minority Relations	September 13 Review for Exam 1
September 18 Exam 1	September 20 Chapter 5: Northern and Western Europeans
September 25 Chapter 5: Northern and Western Europeans Chapter 6: Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans	September 27 Chapter 6: Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans
October 2 Chapter 8: East and Southeast Asian Americans	October 4 Chapter 8: East and Southeast Asian Americans Chapter 9: Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans
October 9 Chapter 9: Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans	October 11 Review for Exam 2
October 16 Exam 2	October 18 Chapter 7: The Native Americans
October 23 Chapter 7: The Native Americans	October 25 Chapter 10: Black Americans
October 30 Chapter 10: Black Americans	November 1 Chapter 11: Hispanic Americans
November 6 Chapter 11: Hispanic Americans	November 8 Review for Exam 3
November 13 Exam 3	November 15 Chapter 12: Religious Minorities
November 20 Chapter 12: Religious Minorities Chapter 13: Women as a Minority Group	November 22 Thanksgiving (no class)
November 27 Chapter 13: Women as a Minority Group	November 29 Chapter 14: The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic
December 4 Chapter 14: The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic	December 6 Review for Exam 4 ^a

^a Exam 4 (final exam) will be scheduled in accordance with the SHSU final exam schedule.

NOTE: This syllabus does not constitute a contract between student and instructor. It may be necessary to change the sequence of topics and/or dates of examinations. Any changes will be repeatedly announced in class.