

## Syllabus

### Introduction to Ethnic Studies

### Sociology 168 – Fall 2007

Instructor: Daniel L. Argo

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Textbook: Vincent N. Parrillo, Strangers To These Shores. Eighth Edition

#### Catalog Description:

The United States is an increasingly diverse country. This is an introductory course designed to expose students to trends in ethnic, racial, religious, and gender minorities in the United States. After an initial presentation of sociological concepts that pertain to the study of minorities, we will spend most of the semester investigating the particular histories and circumstances of different groups that have either immigrated to the United States or were already here. Our main goal in the class is to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions about immigration and minority groups and thereby build a greater level of understanding that most all of us are immigrants to this country.

#### Course Objectives:

- 1) For students to learn and be able to apply sociological concepts related to race, ethnicity, and other forms of minority status to social events in general and their lives in particular.
- 2) For students to learn to think critically about issues such as prejudice and discrimination.
- 3) For students to be more understanding and tolerant of social groups that are different from their particular reference groups.

#### Course Structure:

This is an internet based course. All material will be posted online through Blackboard. Tests, assignments, notes, etc. will be handled though the online classroom. Questions should be directed to me though email, blackboard postings, or by appointment during office hours

#### Grading:

Your final grade will be cumulative of four in class exams, one final exam (lowest grade dropped), one book review, a course evaluation, and a series of outside assignments. The total amount of points accumulated will be divided by 500 to decide your final grade.

Tests 1-5 .....500 points/ lowest test dropped

Outside Assignments...100 points

500 total points available. Final grade will be based on points accumulated throughout semester.

### Attendance Policy

As this is an internet based class, there is no set attendance policy. Notes, assignments, tests, and various things will be posted on blackboard. You must keep up with these items to do well in class.

### 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. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

### 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 must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor at the very beginning of the semester in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

### Religious Holidays

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 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to "Religious Holy Days".

## Course Schedule - Tentative

Week 1	Ch.1 - The Study of Minorities
Week 2	Ch. 2 - Culture and Social Structure
Week 3	Ch. 3 - Prejudice and Discrimination (Extra Credit 1 due)
Week 4	Ch. 3 - Prejudice and Discrimination
Week 5	Ch. 4 - Dominant-Minority Relations
Week 6	Ch. 4 - Dominant-Minority Relations
Week 6	Exam 1
Week 7	Ch. 5 - Northern and Western Europeans
Week 8	Ch. 6 - Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans
Week 9	Ch. 7 - The Native Americans
Week 10	Ch. 8 - East and Southeast Asian Americans Ch. 9 - Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans (Extra Credit 2 due)
Week 11	Exam 2
Week 12	Ch. 10 - Black Americans
Week 13	Ch. 11 - Hispanic Americans (Extra Credit 3 due)
Week 14	Movie - A Day Without Mexicans
Week 15	Ch. 12 - Religious Minorities. (Extra Credit 4 due) Ch. 13 - Women as a Minority Ch. 14 - The Ever Changing U.S. Mosaic
Week 16	Final Exam