

SOC 168.08 INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2008

Location: AB1, Room 307

Time: TTH 9:30-10:50

Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller

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Office Hours: TTH 8:00-9:30am
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.

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. If you arrive more than **10 minutes** after the start of class, you will be counted absent. If you leave more than **10 minutes** before the end of class, you will be counted absent. Documentation is required for an absence to be

excused or to make-up exams. Attendance will be taken into consideration if your final average is on the cusp between letter grades.

Exams and Grading Plan: 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.

To keep you up-to-date with your reading, there will be seven (7) quizzes during the semester: roughly one quiz every two chapters. Each will be worth 10 points. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester $6 \times 10 = 60$.

There will be four equally weighted exams. 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 ($4 \times 100 = 400$). All exam grades will factor into your final grade.

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. Documentation for absences must be provided to make-up assignments, quizzes or exams.

Real World Analysis: You will complete one Real World Analysis essay worth 40 points. 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 Real World Analysis is due on **March 6, 2008. No late papers will be accepted.**

Extra credit: A twenty (20) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will involve watching a movie and answering a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided. Other extra credit opportunities may be announced in class. If you do not attend class, you may miss out on these.

Final grades will be calculated by adding six of the seven quizzes ($6 \times 10 = 60$), plus all four exam grades (possible 100 points each = 400), the Real World Analysis assignment (40), plus any extra credit points earned and dividing this total by 5.

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 (plagiarism) is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat or plagiarize 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/>

Americans 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/>

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/>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor if arranged prior to the class session. 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/>

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.

Assignments: Work for this class will consist of reading the text, attending class, taking notes, studying the text and class notes for the quizzes and exams. One short paper, the Real World Analysis, is required. You will also have some in-class exercises to help you understand the material.

Required Supplies: You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly and frequently for announcements and course materials.

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan	16 22, 24 29, 31	Introduction to class Chapters 1, 2 Chapters 2, 3
February	5, 7 12, 14	Chapters 3, 4 Chapter 4, Exam #1 (1-4)

	19, 21 26, 28	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
March	4, 6 11, 13 18, 20	Chapter 8, Real World Analysis due Spring Break Chapter 9
April	1, 3 8, 10 15, 17 22, 24 29, 1	Exam #2 (5,6,8,9), Chapter 7 Chapters 7, 10 Chapters 10, 11 Chapter 11, Exam #3 (7, 10, 11) Chapters 12, 13
May	6, 8	Chapters 13, 14

FINAL EXAM - EXAM #4 (Chapters 12-14, cumulative for basic concepts and facts) Tuesday, May 13, 2008 8:00-10:00am.

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) Please do not talk while the professor, or another classmate, is speaking. **Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk while others are talking** as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
- 3) 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.
- 4) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
- 5) Computers may be used to take notes only.
- 6) Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
- 7) Students may record lectures with the professor's approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*
<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.