

## **SOC 168.17: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Spring 2008**

**Location:** Internet    **Class Meeting Times:** Online

**Instructor:** Caron Charlton Cates    **Office Location:** AB1, Room 308-A

**Instructor Contact Information:** Phone: 936-294-1961 (office); 936- 294-1512 (dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: [SOC\\_CCC@shsu.edu](mailto:SOC_CCC@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mon 1:30-2:30, 5:00-6:00, Wed 1:30-2:30, Fri 10:00-12:00 just prior or after class, **(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. There are no prerequisite courses. This class is predominantly a lecture class with four exams.

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

1. Explain fundamental sociological principles, concepts, and issues related to race/ethnic/gender studies.
2. Better understand the importance and significance of contemporary events and trends as they reflect minority issues such as prejudice and discrimination.
3. Apply course material in an examination of how your own reference groups fit in an increasingly diverse U.S. society.

**Required Text:** Vincent Parrillo, (2006) *STRANGERS TO THESE SHORES*, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Allyn Bacon/Longman.

**Course Notes:** This is an internet course. Students are required to have a SHSU student identification card and a SHSU email account in order to enroll in the class. The SHSU email account is necessary to access Blackboard which is the software used for the course. The class is conducted completely over the Blackboard system. Blackboard is available under University Fast Links in the SHSU web page. To log on, type your SHSU email address and your password. Once in Blackboard, click on SOC 168 and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item you wish to see to get the necessary information. For this class, the Announcements, Course Information, and Course Documents tabs will be used the most. For example, click on Course Information and you can find the class syllabus. The Announcements tab is where you can keep up with day to day information about the class. I will give you reminders of when the exams are to be taken and when the extra credit opportunities are due. The Course Documents tab is where you find short overviews of the chapters in the textbook. The extra-credit opportunities are explained under the Assignments tab. Your three exams will also be available in the Assignments tab. Your grades will be available under the Online Gradebook tab.

**Attendance Policy:** This is an internet class so no attendance records are kept.

**Exams and Grading Plan: Exams:** There will be three exams worth 100 points each during the semester. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Your exams will be available under the Assignments tab on the days they are to be taken. The three tests are on **Feb. 22-23; April 4-5; and May 9-10**. You will have between 8:00 a.m. on the first day and 10:00 p.m. on the second day to take the exam. You will have **only 60** minutes to complete each exam. The exams are open-note exams but you must complete the exam in 60 minutes or **you will be penalized 2 points for each minute past 60 minutes**. You can only take each exam **once** so be sure to answer all of the exam questions before you submit the exam. Also be sure to have a secure internet connection. Dial-up phone line connections are not secure. In the event that a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a make-up exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

**Grading:** Final grades will be based on the total number of points in the class: A = 270 or more points; B = 240 - 269 points; C = 210 - 239 points; D - 180 - 209 points; F = below 180 points.

**Make up Exams:** Make up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES**. In the event that a student could not take one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through verifiable documentation. Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests.

**Extra Credit Project:**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Students can obtain (10) extra credit points by writing an essay on the following topic. This essay should be 1000 words or greater. Essays of less than 1,000 words will not be taken into consideration. E-mail your essays to (SOC\_CCC@shsu.edu) by **(March 17th)**.

**TITLE OF ESSAY:** Films, music, literature, and philosophy are all cultural expressions that reflect human values and the social contexts within which they are created. For this essay, select a film, a musical piece, a work of literature or philosophy at your discretion and discuss its social and cultural dimensions. Additionally, stress how this work of the arts or humanities has enriched your personal intercultural experience and/or that of your community.

**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.

**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 should 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, and 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.

**Religious Holidays:** 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.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Study Tips:** Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has her own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

## **Course Outline**

**Jan. 28 – Feb. 18**

### **Introduction to the Sociological Framework**

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| The Study of Minorities      | Chapter 1 |
| Culture and Social Structure | Chapter 2 |
| Prejudice and Discrimination | Chapter 3 |

Dominant-Minority Relations Chapter 4

**TEST ONE (Feb. 22-23)**

**European Americans**

Northern and Western Europeans Chapter 5

Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans Chapter 6

**People of Color**

The Native Americans Chapter 7

**Mar. 11 – Mar. 14 Spring Break**

East and Southeast Asian Americans Chapter 8

Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans Chapter 9

**TEST TWO (April 4-5)**

Black Americans Chapter 10

Hispanic Americans Chapter 11

**Other Minorities**

Religious Minorities Chapter 12

Women as a Minority Group Chapter 13

**Trends and Possibilities**

The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic Chapter 14

**FINAL EXAM (May 9-10)**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**