

## SOC 168.02: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Spring 2008

**Location:** AB4 307

**TA:** Ben Robertson

**Office Location:** AB1, Room 318A

**TA Contact Information:**

Phone: 936-294-3506 (office)

936-294-1512 (dept.)

E-Mail: [stdbgr14@shsu.edu](mailto:stdbgr14@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours:**

M 11-12, Tu 10-11 or by appointment

**Class Meeting Times:** MWF 10-10:50 AM

**Professor:** Dr. Mary Ann Davis

**Office Location:** AB1, Room 308-C

**Professor Contact Information:**

Phone: 936-294-4083 (office)

936-294-1512 (dept.)

E-Mail: [mad011@shsu.edu](mailto:mad011@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours:**

MW 9-10 AM 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*, 8th Ed. Allyn Bacon/Longman.

**Exams and Grading:** There will be four non-comprehensive exams in the class that cover both textbook reading and additional lecture material. Exams will be equally weighted (100 points each) and consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. It is important that you remember to come prepared to each test with a scantron form. Make-up exams must be approved before the day the exam is scheduled at the discretion of the instructor if the absence is deemed valid and will consist of a series of short essay questions.

As each exam is worth 100 points and there are four exams, the following grade chart illustrates the final point distribution and its equivalent letter grade: 400-360 = A; 359-320 = B; 319-280 C; 279-240 = D; 239 or less = F. In addition, extra credit may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. There will be weekly extra credit pop quizzes of up to a few points which exclusively test reading material. There will also be a five (5) point extra credit opportunity made available during the semester. The extra credit will involve watching the movie "Crash" and answering a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided.

**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.

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

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. **As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask any student or students to leave class if I believe that their behavior is disruptive to the class and the learning environment.** In other words, come to class prepared and be respectful to other students. Any other behavior will not be tolerated. **The first offense will be a verbal warning,**

**second offense written warning, third offense 2 point deduction, fourth – 4 point, fifth – 6 point etc.** For class discussion to run smoothly, all cell phones must be turned off during class time.

**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. 15 – Feb. 6**

#### **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. 8 – Mar. 5**

#### **European Americans**

Northern and Western Europeans Chapter 5

Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans Chapter 6

#### **People of Color**

The Native Americans Chapter 7

#### **TEST TWO**

### **Mar. 10 – Mar. 14 Spring Break**

### **Mar. 17 – Apr. 16**

East and Southeast Asian Americans Chapter 8

Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans Chapter 9

Black Americans Chapter 10

Hispanic Americans Chapter 11

#### **TEST THREE**

#### **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 (date as determined by university schedule)**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**