

SOCIOLOGY 565
Seminar in Race and Ethnic Studies
Spring 2008
Tues. 2-5 pm
University Center, The Woodlands

Professor: Karen Manges Douglas, Ph.D.
Office: AB1 311
Office Hours: T-Th: 9:30-11; Thur: 2-3 and by appointment
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* When required, I generally respond within 24 hours to all emails (except weekends and when I'm traveling and have limited access to email).

Course Description: The course offers an in-depth examination and critique of important monographs and journal literature dealing with the social life of American minorities. Designed to promote mature scholarship in the study of literature; drawing from influences, ideologies, structural forces and changes characteristic of the social life of comparative minority groups. Students will be responsible for identifying sociological propositions reflected in the discerned patterns of interaction occurring in selected institutions in contemporary American society.

Course Objectives: The course aims to develop a theoretical framework for understanding the field of Minority Studies. The main objective of this course is to provide the student with the tools needed to explore issues of race and ethnic inequality.

Approach to Course: The class will be approached with a Critical Perspective. This means that within our class discussions we will be searching for aspects of race, class, gender, etc. This also means that we must work together to enliven the classroom, encourage discussions and critically think, while stimulating the "Sociological Imagination".

Course Requirements:

1) 4 Book Reviews: (400 points, 100 points each)

Students are to write a review of each of the assigned texts. The reviews must follow a review format similar to those found in a Sociological journal. Note that there are 5 required books for the course. You are expected to summarize 4.

2) Chapter Summaries/Class Presentations: (200 points)

a. Chapter summary presentations from the assigned reading

These presentations must summarize the chapter as well as explore an issue or issues discussed in the chapter in more detail. Towards this end, journal articles that detail the latest research in the field must be brought in. In the presentation, students must give insightful sociological critiques of the material and offer scholarly support for their assessments. A 3-5 page summary, along with all cited journal articles, will accompany the chapter presentations.

b. In-depth presentation of their choice of material from the race/ethnic literature. Over the course of the semester, you will be developing your awareness of a race/ethnic issue of your choice to be presented on the final class day. Please have your general topic by the end of February. You will present a progress report on your research at each meeting.

3) Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected. A student may be penalized for excessive unexcused absences. Absences are handled on an individual basis with the student taking responsibility for negotiating requirements to satisfy all incomplete work.

A student with a situation which handicaps her/his performance is expected to arrange a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies are considered to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

4) Point Scale:

Students have the possibility to earn up to 600 points in this class:

4 Book Reviews, 400 points

Presentations/Discussion/Attendance, 200 points

Total: 600 points

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade:

540-600A

480-539B

420-479C

Required Texts:

CID	ISBN	Author	Title	Publisher	Edition
1090 0742546861		Eduardo Bonilla-Silva	Racism W/O Racists: Color-Blind Racism & Presisten	Rowman & Littlefield	2.
1090 0195101227		Jill Quadagno	Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on	Oxford University Press	
1090 0393328511		Ira Katznelson	When Affirmative Action Was White:Untold History	WW Norton & Co.	
1090 0691124299		Mae M. Ngai	Impossible Subjects:Illegal Aliens & Making of Mod	California-Princeton Fullfillment Services	
1090 0691050198		W. Bowen & Derrick Bok	The Shape of the River	Princeton University Press	

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Reading Assign.	Topic/Information/Actions
1	Jan. 22	Ngai	Introductions/Social Construction of Race
2	Jan 29	Ngai	Chapters 1-3
3	Feb. 7	Ngai	Chapters 3-7 (Summary due)
4	Feb. 14	Katznelson	Chapters 1-3
5	Feb. 21	Katznelson	Chapters 4-6
6	Feb. 28	Quadagno	Intro – Chpt. 3
7	Mar. 4	Quadagno	Chpt. 4- end
8	Mar. 11	Quadagno	(Katznelson summary due)
9	Mar. 18	Begin reading Bowen & Bok	SPRING BREAK
10	Mar. 25	Bowen & Bok	Forward-Chpt. 3(Quadagno summary due)
11	Apr. 1	Bowen & Bok	Chpt.4-Chpt. 7
12	Apr. 8	Bowen & Bok	Chpt. 8-end
13	Apr. 15	Bonilla-Silva	(Bowen & Bok summary due)
14	Apr. 22	Bonilla-Silva	
15	Apr. 29		Class presentations
16	May 6		Final Exam – (Bonilla-Silva due)

Lectures and/or videos will occur when student presentations are not occurring during class time.

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 is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat 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/>

Plagiarism is also not acceptable and will not be tolerated. 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.

All student papers will submit their paper to the Turnitin database to check originality. This system compares the document with online sources and the Turnitin database. Turnitin then scores the paper for originality.

Plagiarized papers will be returned to the student to be rewritten and will be docked a full letter grade. Additional incidents will result in an F for the class and your conduct will be reported to the appropriate university personnel.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be initiated by the student. If you are seeking such accommodations you should go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

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.

Religious Holidays

Absences for the observance of religious holidays will be respected and excused provided that I am notified of the absence at the beginning of the semester.

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 more information regarding the University's policies on:

- Academic Dishonesty
- Classroom Rules of Conduct
- Student Absences on Religious Holy Days
- Etc.

Please refer to: www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

Important University Dates

January 15	Last day to resign with 100% refund
January 23	Last day to resign with 80% refund
January 24	Late Registration/Schedule Changes end Deadline to pay for additional fees/tuition
January 30	Last day to resign with 70% refund
February 1	Last day to drop a class with 100% refund (does not apply to students dropping to "0" hours).
February 6	Last day to withdraw with 50% refund.
February 13	Last day to withdraw with 25% refund
March 7	Deadline to apply for August Graduation
May 9	Last Day to Drop a Course without the grade of F.
May 12 - 15	Final Examinations
May 17	Commencement