

COURSE SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY 168.07
INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES
3 CREDIT HOURS
SPRING, 2008
AB1, 304
8:00 – 9:20 A.M. TUES/THURS

PROFESSOR: Walter H. Bennett
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon 12-3; Tues 7-8 & 10-2;
Wed 8-1; Thurs 7-8 & 10-2
Other times may be arranged

I. ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course provides an introductory level study of ethnic and racial diversity in human society. A socio-historical context is used for the examination of intercultural experiences in the peopling of the United States. Special attention is given to central concepts and major theoretical perspectives in Sociology used for the analysis and explanation of intergroup relations, including patterns of social inequality.

II. ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

Course objectives or learning goals include:

1. To introduce the concept 'stranger' as a social phenomenon.
2. To introduce a socio-historical framework for the study of intercultural experiences and intergroup relations among native and immigrant groups in the United States.
3. To familiarize students with major concepts and theoretical perspectives used in sociology for the analytical study of intergroups relations.
4. To encourage students to critically assess opposing issues and viewpoints regarding goals for intergroup relations among people with different cultural orientations.
5. To encourage students to trace their individual Native American and/or immigrant root heritage and/or to consider how their ancestors arrived in the United States and how their family's past has been shaped by other immigrant groups.

III. ***REQUIRED TEXTBOOK***

Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States, Vincent N. Parrillo, 8th edition, Allyn and Bacon, 2006, ISBN 0205457630

IV. ***SEMESTER EXAMS AND GRADING PLAN***

The course grade will be based upon performance on four exams of equal value and as formally scheduled in this syllabus. The exams will be both multiple choice and essay in format. Students will be graded on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = below a 60 average

Additional information regarding exams and semester grade will be provided at the first class meeting. A five (5) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will involve watching a movie and answer a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided.

V. ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leaves early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. A student is not only expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness, but he/she is also

COURSE SYLLABUS

expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work, whether assigned or not. Missed exams and make-up work will be treated on the basis of individual circumstance(s).

2. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

3. STUDENTS 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 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. ***This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.*** <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

4. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

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. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

5. VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to classes 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. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

6. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

COURSE SYLLABUS

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

- a. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
- b. Students are not allowed to use cell phones, I-Pods, MP3, etc., they should be stowed and **turned off** during class.
- c. Computers may be used to take notes ONLY.

7. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

8. REQUIRE SUPPLIES

Not applicable.

VI. **COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS/TIME SCHEDULE** (*The course outline and related time schedule is tentative and may be subject to revision.*)

DATES (2008)	TOPICS	CHAPTER
	PART ONE	
Jan. 17,22,24,29,31	Introduction to the Sociological Framework	
Feb. 5,7,12	The Study of Minorities	1
	Culture and Social Structure	2
	Prejudice and Discrimination	3
	Dominant-Minority Relations	4
Feb. 14	TEST ONE	
Feb. 19,21,26,28	PART TWO	
Mar. 4	Europeans Americans	
	Northern and Western Europeans	5
	Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans	6
Mar. 6	TEST TWO	
Mar. 18,20,25,27	PART THREE	
Apr. 1,3,8,10,15,17,22	People of Color	
	The Native Americans	7
	East and Southeast Asian Americans	8
	Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans	9
	Black Americans	10
	Hispanic Americans	11
Apr. 24	TEST THREE	
Apr. 29	PART FOUR	
May 4,6	Other Minorities	
	Religious Minorities	12
	Women as a Minority Group	13
May 8	PART FIVE	
	Trends and Possibilities	
	The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic	14

FINAL EXAM (as determined by university schedule)