

SOC 168.03: INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Fall, 2007

Location of Class Meeting: TEC 340

Class Meeting Times: 9-9:50 am

Instructor: Dr. Furjen Deng

Office Location: AB1, 311 C

Instructor Contact Information : (936) 294-1515, Fax: (936)294-3573, Email: soc_fjd@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MWF:11 am -12 pm, 2-3p.m., or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: To be announced

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to make application of sociological principles and concepts in the examination of race and ethnic relations. Sociological perspectives such as functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives are adopted as the theoretical frameworks in examining these relations. Specifically, this course is designed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the nature of inter group relations in multiethnic societies?
2. What are the long term outcomes of ethnic interrelations? Assimilation or pluralism?
3. How does a dominant ethnic group in a multiethnic society maintain its place at the top of the ethnic hierarchy, and what attempts are made by subordinate groups to change their positions?
4. What are the historical backgrounds and contemporary status of the various racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States? We will examine the history and contemporary status of the following racial/ethnic groups: Muslim and Arab Americans, Italian Americans, Jewish Americans, Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a sociological analysis of nature and outcomes of inter group relations in multiethnic societies.
2. To use theories (or perspectives) of sociology -- structural functionalism, power conflict theory, symbolic interactionist perspective, and some middle-range theories to analyze the historical backgrounds and contemporary status of the various racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States.
3. To find the usefulness of the sociological perspective in explaining inter group relations.
4. To help students establish basic knowledge in sociology, this will provide a good foundation for advanced courses, individual study, or leading to expertise with respect to these areas.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Parrillo, Vincent N., 2006, *Strangers to These Shores*, 8th Edition, Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
2. A pack of lecture notes is on sale at "Eagle Graphics" (Phone: 295-6343).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Following University policy pertaining to class attendance, regular attendance is expected of each student. Particular in borderline cases, exceptionally fine or weak class involvement will be considered in the calculation of the final grade. The highest class involvement grade without significant involvement in class discussion is a "B", and this allows up to six hours absence. Involvement in class discussion (quantitative

and qualitative) is necessarily for an "A" (4% of the grade).

EXAMS

There will be **FOUR** major exams. Each exam accounts for 24 of the final grade. All exams will be a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and supplemental materials that we have discussed up to the time of each exam. The specific date for each exam will be announced in the class and the Blackboard as the course progresses. **MISSED EXAMS:** Makeup exams will not be given, except under compelling circumstances and if you contact me before the time of the exam. The student is allowed to make up one missed exam. All make-up exams will be held at the end of semester.

GRADING PLAN:

The requirements for this course include completing the assigned readings, taking required examinations, and participating in regular class meetings and discussion.

Reading assignments: Regular class meetings will be structured around a combined lecture and discussion format. Hence, completing assigned readings prior to coming to class will be essential for informed discussion and debate.

Your final course grade will be computed as follows:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
4 Major Exams	96
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	100

You should get about 90% overall for an "A", 80% for a "B", 70% for a "C", and 60% for a "D". The cut-offs, however, are flexible and I may change them at the end of the semester if I consider it necessary. Dates for major exams, grades, and other important announcements related to the course are posted in the Blackboard. To access the Blackboard, go to www.shsu.edu and select "Blackboard" at "University Fast Links."

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

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. At a minimum the student will receive a failing grade on the assignment in which dishonesty was involved.

DISABLED STUDENT 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.

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 (Lee Drain Annex, (936)-294-1720).

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

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

To enhance the quality of teaching, each student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of Sam Houston State University. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines that campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities. All cell phones should also be turned off or put in silent mode during the class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assigned Readings</u>
Aug. 20	Orientations and Introduction
Aug.22-27	Basic Concepts on the Study of Race and Ethnicity (Readings: Text, Chapter 1; Notes: Topic 1)
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday
Aug. 29-Sept.14	Theoretical Perspectives on the Study of Race and Ethnicity (Readings: Text, Chapters 1, 2 and 4; Notes, Topic 2)
Sept. 17	Exam 1
Sept.19-28	Prejudice and Discrimination (Readings: Text, Chapter 3; Notes, Topic 3)
Oct. 1-10	Immigration Policy in the United States and Northern and Western Europeans (Readings: Text, Chapter 5; Notes, Topic 4)
Oct. 12-17	Southern, Central and Eastern Europeans; Italian Americans (Readings: Text, Chapter 6; Notes, Topic 5)
October 19	Exam 2
Oct. 22-26	Religious Diversity and Jewish Americans (Readings: Text, Chapter 12; Notes, Topic 6)
Oct. 29- Nov. 5	Asian Americans (Readings: Text, Chapters 8 and 9; Notes, Topic 7)
Nov. 7- 14	Hispanic Americans (Readings: Text, Chapter 11; Notes, Topic 8)
Nov. 16	Exam 3
Nov. 19-27	African Americans (Readings: Text, Chapter 10; Notes, Topic 9)
Dec. 3-5	Native Americans and Trends and Possibilities (Readings: Text, Chapters 7 and 14; Notes, Topic 10)
Dec. 12	Exam 4 (8 - 10 a.m., Wednesday)