

SOC 168.18

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

FALL 2007
Internet Course
3 Credit Hours

- ❖ **What are minority groups? Majority groups?**
- ❖ **How do *majorities* create and sustain minorities?**
- ❖ **Who are the *traditional, new & emerging* minorities in the U.S.?**
- ❖ **How big are the major minority groups?**
- ❖ **What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?**
- ❖ **How do institutions discriminate?**

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES helps you answer these questions. This course teaches you how sociologists analyze racial, ethnic, religious and other minorities.

Instructor/TA

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Required Text



Parrillo, Vincent N. 2006. *Strangers to these Shores* .
Eighth Edition. Boston : Allyn and Bacon.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- ❖ recall basic **social facts**, origin, population size, geographic distribution and social-economic position of minority groups, especially those in the U.S.
- ❖ identify & apply basic sociological **concepts & explanations** of inequalities among groups
- ❖ identify types of domination, especially less visible ones
- ❖ express **understanding & appreciation** of the diversity of minority group situations & experiences

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with **facts and theories** about the topic of ethnic studies in sociology. At the outset of the semester, students will be exposed to the basic theoretical paradigms of the discipline. Subsequently, this knowledge will be employed to study ethnic and racial social relations, their interpretations, and pertinent debates in current scientific literature. The course will focus on most racial and ethnic groups, religious groups, and women in the United States . Students will become familiar with key concepts - such as culture, minority, ethnocentrism and stratification - and their analytic uses. This is a freshman level course.

The Internet

This is an internet course. You are required to have an SHSU e-mail address in order to attend the class. The SHSU e-mail address is necessary to access *Blackboard* which is the software used for the course. It is available in the SHSU web page. To log on, you need to type your SHSU e-mail ID and your SHSU password. Once in Blackboard, click on SOC 168, and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item that you would like 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. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the software. **Remember , all the necessary information concerning the assignments and tests is contained in the Syllabus .**

Classroom Meetings

There will be no actual classroom meetings. This is a full internet course.

Exam & Grading Plan

- (1) **Exams.** There will be **three (3)** exams during the course of the semester. Each exam will be equal to one hundred (100) points or fifty percent (50%) of the final grade. These are fifty (50) question- multiple-choice exams that cover material assigned during the class period preceding each exam. These are **NOT** comprehensive examinations. Also, these exams are **open book exams** . Please note that if you log off before completing the exam, you cannot go back and re-start it. Accordingly, an advanced internet connection is recommended. **Students need to log on to Blackboard to take each of the three exams** (see course schedule for the exam dates). **Students will have fifty minutes to complete each of the exams. Those who take more than the assigned time to complete the tests will be assessed a two point penalty for each additional minute used. Students are required to keep time when taking the tests and are responsible for it. No time warnings are provided.**

In the event that your computer freezes during the exam, you will have to call me to schedule an alternate exam. EXAMS will NOT be RESET.

(2) **Quizzes.** There will be weekly quizzes that covers the material in the text. These quizzes count 10 points each and cumulatively will be worth the equivalent of one exam or 100 points. **In the event your computer freezes during the course of the quiz, time permitting (meaning if you did not wait until the last minutes of the last day), we will reset your quiz but no more than twice during the entire semester.**

The weekly quizzes will be available beginning on Tuesdays at 9 am and will be available thru midnight Friday.

Final Grades will be awarded according to the following point distribution:

- A 360-400
- B 320-359
- C 280-319
- D 240-279
- F <= 239

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be offered periodically. The requirements and points allotted will be announced in Blackboard. Extra credit is just that – EXTRA – do not expect to flunk every exam and rely upon extra credit to pass. It should be thought of as a way to supplement your quiz grades. You can expect no more than 30 extra credit points over the course of the semester.

Make-up Exams

There will be **NO SCHEDULED MAKE UP EXAMS** . In the event that a student could not take the test during the scheduled time window, s/he must notify Dr. Douglas prior to the exam. Dr. Douglas reserves the right to deny a make up exam.

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 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.

Instructor Evaluation

Towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. These are very important to me and provide me with invaluable information for improving the course. The evaluation form will be available online for you to complete and submit.

Course Outline *** Subject to Modification***

August 20-24	The Study of Minorities (Chapter 1); Syllabus assignment due Aug. 24; Practice Quiz on Chpt. I due Aug. 24
Aug. 27- 31	Culture and Social Structure (Chapter 2); Quiz 1 due Aug. 31
September 4-7	Prejudice and Discrimination (Chapter 3); Quiz 2 due Sep. 7
September 10-14	Dominant-Minority Relations (Chapter 4); Quiz 3 due Sep. 14
September 20	EXAM I (Chpts. 1-4)
September 24-28	Northern and Western Europeans (Chapter 5); Quiz 4 due Sep. 28
October 1-5	Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans (Chapter 6); Quiz 5 due Oct. 5
October 8-12	Native Americans (Chapter 7); Quiz 6 due Oct. 12
October 15-19	East and Southeast Asian Americans (Chapter 8); Quiz 7 due Oct. 19
October 25	EXAM 2 (Chpts. 5-8)
Oct 29-Nov 2	Other Asian & Middle Eastern Americans (Chapter 9); Quiz 8 due Nov 2
Nov 5-9	Black Americans (Chapter 10); Quiz 9 due Nov. 9
Nov 12-16	Hispanic Americans (Chapter 11); Quiz 10 due Nov. 16
Nov 19-23	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Nov 26-30	Religious Minorities (Chapter 12); Quiz 11 due Nov. 30
Dec 3-7	Women as a minority (Chapter 13); Quiz 12 due Dec. 7
December 10	FINAL EXAM (Chpts. 9-13).

You have from 1:00 am to 7:00 pm to access the Final Exam on Blackboard. You have fifty minutes, from the time you access the exam, to complete it. Once you access the exam, you must complete it as you are not allowed to log on a second time. A one point penalty per extra minute used will be assessed to those take more than the assigned time to complete the test. Students are required to keep time during the test. No time warnings will be provided. This is a fifty question, open-book multiple-choice exam. Therefore you are allowed to consult the

**book and class notes. This final exam will cover chapters 9
through 13.**