

SOC 168.05: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Spring 2008

Location: AB1 304 **Class Meeting Times:** MW 2 -3:20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Davis **Office Location:** AB1, Room 308-C

Instructor Contact Information: Phone: 936-294-4083 (office); 936- 294-1512 (Dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: 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.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is factored into your grade (25 points). Therefore, if you do not attend class, you will receive a lower grade. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, are counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. Attendance is verified by seating chart. Students will select seat and remain in that seat for the semester, unless they request a change.

Exams and Grading Plan: There will be four equally weighted exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a semester total of 400, with 25 attendance points = 425. Exams will be multiple-choice questions. The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook AND the material discussed in class. Although much of the class lectures will refer to the text, new material will also be introduced. You are expected to read and study the textbook independently. Information discussed in class, as well as that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams.

Exams will be graded, and posted on Blackboard, one week following the exam.

Make-up exams will be short answer exams, so no scantron is necessary. A make-up exam will be given only if arranged with the professor PRIOR to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and ONLY if professor deems the reason for the absence valid.

Final grades are: 425-382 = A; 381-340 = B; 339-298 = C; 297-255 = D; 254-0 = F
Information on Extra Credit:

1. Write a five-page double spaced, Times New Roman 12 font with 1" margins, your name and page number in the footer, on your family's ethnic background, as a public paper to be shared with classmates, based on genealogical research and your text (interviewing relatives, consult family histories). Relate it to the course material.

Did they immigrate? If so describe the historical context of your family's move to America. What were the migratory "push or pull" factors? Which ethnic cultural activities or practices have your family maintained? Did/does your family experience discrimination? Did/does your family attend religious events within your culture? What is the occupational niche(s) your family fills? Will this affect your major? Housing: Do you live in an ethnic enclave? Different from family? The paper is worth a maximum of 10 points and is due on **March 19th**. No late papers will be accepted.

2. A five (5) point extra credit opportunity will be made available during the semester. The extra credit will be to watch the movie "Crash" and answer a short quiz on the movie. A study guide will be provided. There will also be other opportunities for extra credit which will be announced in class.

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, 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.

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

January 23 Introduction **Part 1: Sociological Framework**

Jan. 23, 28, The Study of Minorities (Chapter 1)

Jan. 30 Feb. 4 Cultures and Social Structure (Chapter 2)

February 6, 11 Prejudice and Discrimination (Chapter 3)

February 13, 18 Dominant-Minority Relations (Chapter 4)

February 20 Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)

February 25, 27 Northern and Western Europeans (Chapter 5)

March 3, 5 Southern, Central and Eastern Europeans (Chapter 6)

March 17, 19 The Native Americans (Chapter 7) March 19: **Extra Credit Paper Due**

March 24, 26 East and Southeast Asian Americans (Chapter 8)

March 31, April 2 Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans (Chapter 9)

April 7 **Exam 2 (Chapters 5-9)**

April 9, 14 Black Americans (Chapter 10)

April 16, 21 Hispanic Americans (Chapter 11)

April 23 **Exam 3 Chapters 10, 11)**

April 28, 30 Religious Minorities (Chapter 12)

May 5 Women as a Minority Group (Chapter 13)

May 7 The Ever-Changing U.S. Mosaic (Chapter 14)

May 10-15 Final Exam per University Schedule

Exam Four/Final (Chapters 12-14) plus fundamental concepts used throughout 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. During class, no electronic communication equipment is permissible unless required by a disabling condition. This means no cell phones use; no text messaging; no audio equipment or earpieces during class or exams.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.