Sociology 370.001 - Minority Groups
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2012
Class Time: MWF 12:00pm -12:50pm
Rm SS 310

Instructor: Dr. Willie Edwards, Associate Professor
Office Location: Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217
Office Hours: MWF 11:00am – 12:00pm &
Tues (only) 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Any other Times, Please Schedule an Appointment
Office Phone: (903) 886-5331
Office Fax: (903) 886-5330
University Email Address: willie.edwards@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:


Optional:

Course Description:
Sociology is broadly concerned with examining the forces which bring people in groups (societies) together, draw them apart, and generate change in the social world. In studying race and ethnicity, sociologists examine the various systems, structures, organizations, processes, interactions, and meanings present in minority-majority relationships.

The main purpose of this course is to broaden our understanding of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. We will begin with basic concepts and perspectives, specifically on race relations within our social institutions.

Our society is unique in its diversity. The society is a composite of many racial and ethnic groups whose social histories and distinct subcultures have contributed to the multicultural society known as America. We will study the social traits of several racial/ethnic groups. We will use information developed by anthropologists, economists, historians, political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists. We will endeavor to explore the dynamics which define the relationship between minority and majority groups. We will investigate several public policy issues. We will endeavor to distinguish between ideas/arguments that are intuitive or emotional and factual or data supported.

Students are encouraged to share their insights, experiences and participate in all discussions. However, we will not tolerate personal attacks or insolence (insult or disrespect) by any student.
toward another student. We expect all individuals to be capable of addressing any topic covered within this class with intelligence and respect for his or her classmates.

**Course Design:**
Lectures, audio visual material, and class discussions will be the procedures employed to cover the topics of this course. Students are expected to read class material before coming to class.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Students will be able to define racial and ethnic groups, and explain their social significance.
2. Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the sociological usage of majority and minority groups.
3. Students will employ critical thinking about prejudice and discrimination through their ability to discuss or write about these terms and other information associated with them.
4. Students will elaborate on the experiences of the various minority groups studied within this class.
5. Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the theoretical explanations of majority minority relations through their writings, discussions and other activities.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Method of Evaluation**
There will be a total of nineteen (19) grades for this class. How they are to be earned is explained below in this section.

A large portion of the grades will come from tests administered to the class. Please see the class schedule for dates and chapters to be covered on each test. The tests will be a composition of multiple choice, short answers, and essay. Tests in this class are written in the style of application and inference. Very little recall type questions will be used. Although this will be explained by the professor, students will see that some of the test will be worth 100 points and others will be worth 50 points. Students will be able to earn 450 points from exams.

In addition to exams administered in this class, students will be required to read and participate in a class discussion on at least three research articles. Students will also be required to summarize two research articles found on their own. The assigned research articles will be provided by the professor either electronically or as paper copies. Instructions and format for the summary of research articles will be distributed to the class by the professor later in the class. This exercise will yield 110 points. An explanation of these points is placed in the below Grading scheme.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in graded discussions throughout the semester. At least 40 points will be earnable throughout the semester. This professor anticipates that there will be a large amount of discussions and participation within the class, however, the professor will specifically identify when a graded discussion will be conducted. Students are encouraged to be present every day that the class is in session, and to have read the class material for that date so he/she may participate intelligently in discussions and conversations occurring within the class.

There will be an opportunity for students to earn at least 14 extra points by participating in the Global Project Survey that will be administered two times during the semester, during class time. The survey will first be administered on August 29, 2012 at the beginning of the class. The survey will be administered again near the very end of the class. Students can earn 7 extra points each time they take the survey.
The professor will warn now and keep the class reminded that the topics of the class may be sensitive and to some extent controversial for some people. Every student is asked to act in a mature and respectful manner. Students are asked not to take comments personally or to engage in making fun of or disrespecting any classmate. We want to have a sense of humor but with decency. Students not being able to govern themselves accordingly will be asked to drop the class.

Course Possible points:

3 Test @ 100 pts., each = 300 pts.
3 Test @ 50 pts., each = 150 pts.
3 Research Articles Exercises @ 20 pts each = 60 pts.
2 Research Articles Student Selected Summaries @ 25 pts each = 50 pts.
8 Class discussions @ 5 pts each = 40 pts.

Total = 600 pts

Grading
The following grade scale will be used:

A = 90 – 100 600 – 540
B = 80 - 89 539 – 480
C = 70 - 79 479 – 420
D = 60 - 69 419 – 360
F = 59 or below 359 or less pts.

All criminal justice majors must make at least a C in all classes required for the major.

There will be no individual extra credit work, and no make-up exams. If an exam is missed a comprehensive exam must be taken by the student near the end of the semester. If a student misses more than one exam he or she should drop the course. Graded discussions and/or summaries cannot be turned in late or made up. Late work is unacceptable.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Contact of Professor:
Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

Research Assistance:
For research assistance, students should contact: Ms. Emily Witsell Reference Librarian at James G. Gee Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 emily_witsell@tamuc.edu; http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library
Tips on How to be successful in this Class:
1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Students should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:
Class Policy:
Class attendance and participation are expected. Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavourably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class period. Telephone and pagers must be placed on vibrate but should not be answered unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.) or you know it to be an emergency call.

A scantron answer sheet (blue) and a number two pencil should be brought to class for each exam, unless instructed differently by the professor.

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: http://www.plagiarism.org or http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled ‘Drop a class’ from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or “X.” You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.
University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct:
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 27, 2012</td>
<td>Introduction to Course &amp; Class Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begin Chapter 1 – Exploring Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
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<td>August 29,</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 1- Exploring Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
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<td>Participate in Global Project</td>
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<td>August 31,</td>
<td>Complete Chapter 1 - Exploring Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
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<td>Begin Chapter 2 – Prejudice</td>
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<td>September 3,</td>
<td>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</td>
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<td>September 5,</td>
<td>Complete Chapter 2 – Prejudice</td>
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<td>Begin Chapter 3 - Discrimination</td>
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<td>September 7,</td>
<td>Complete Chapter 3 – Discrimination</td>
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<td>September 10, 12, 14,</td>
<td>Chapter 4 – Immigration</td>
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<td>Chapter 5 – Ethnicity &amp; Religion</td>
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<td>September 17,</td>
<td>Test 1 (100 pts.) – Chapters 1-5</td>
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<td>September 19,</td>
<td>Results of Test 1</td>
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<td>Research Article Exercise</td>
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<td>Chapters/Assignments</td>
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| September 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 | Chapter 11 – Muslim & Arab Americans  
Chapter 12 – Asian Americans  
Chapter 13 – Chinese & Japanese Americans  
Chapter 14 – Jewish Americans |
| **October 1,**     | **Test 2 (50 pts.) – Chapters 11-14**                                                 |
| October 3,         | Results of Test 2  
**Research Article Exercise**  
Begin Chapter 6 – Native Americans |
| October 5, 8, 10, 12 | Continue Chapter 6 – Native Americans                                                |
| **October 15,**    | **Test 3 (50 pts.) – Chapter 6**                                                      |
| October 17,        | Results of Test 3  
**Research Article Exercise**                                                          |
| October 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31, | Chapter 9 – Latinos: The Largest Minority  
Chapter 10 – Mexican Americans &  
Puerto Ricans |
| **November 2,**    | **Test 4 (100 pts.) Chapters 9 & 10**                                                 |
| November 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, | Chapter 7 – The Making of African Americans in  
White America  
Chapter 8 – African Americans Today |
| **November 21,**   | **Test 5 (100 pts.) Chapters 7 & 8**                                                  |
| November 22-23,    | No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday                                                       |
| November 26,       | Results of Test 4  
**Student Research Article Summary due**                                               |
| November 26, 28, 30; December 3, 5, 7, | Chapter 15 – Women: The Oppressed Minority  
Chapter 16 – Beyond the United States: The  
Comparative Perspective  
Chapter 17 – Overcoming Exclusion  
**Student Research Article Summary due** |
| **December 14,**   | **Final Exam (Test 6, worth 50 pts) 8:00am – 10:00am**                                |