



SOCIOLOGY 370 01W
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Schaffer, Richard T. (2012). *Racial and Ethnic Groups*. 13e. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Any additional readings will be provided for you.

Course Description:

This is a general survey course on American minority groups with particular emphasis on racial minorities and ethical relations. The interplay of these groups in the social, cultural, economic, and political development of the United States will be examined.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Adequately learn basic concepts and empirical facts relevant to the minority groups in America;
2. Fully understand the origin and forms of types of racism and minority groups exclusions if any;
3. Use critical thinking in grasping various sociological theories explaining why certain forms of inequities exist on the basis of certain disadvantaged minorities;
4. Conceptualize preventative measures for overcoming various forms of discrimination and harassment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Please review the course schedule and check your myleo email regularly. I will contact you through email to remind you of due dates and to make announcements. It is very important that you keep up with the schedule. You must stay up to date with our course schedule.

Make sure to log in to the course web site at least weekly and review the materials I post, such as powerpoints or notes.

EXAMS: There will be four exams given online this semester. The dates for each exam are listed on the course schedule. I will open the exams on Wednesday and you will have until Sunday to enter it. Once you enter the exam, you will have one hour to complete it. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS, SO DO NOT MISS ONE.** These will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams are worth 100 points each.

DISCUSSION BOARDS: There will be 10 discussion boards throughout the semester. The dates for each are listed on the course schedule. You only need to participate in 8 of these discussions. If you participate in more than 8, I will add the points earned into your average as bonus points. This is the only extra credit offered. Discussion boards are worth 5 points each.

In order to earn the full 5 points for each discussion, you must post an original response to the question posed, and then you must respond to your classmates' responses in order to create a dialogue. In addition to your original post, you must respond to at least two other posts. The discussion boards will be posted on Mondays and you will have until the next Sunday to participate. Please don't wait until the last minute and post superficial responses; rather, post early in the week and check the board periodically to see if anyone has responded to you or posed another question. Please use well-written arguments and proper syntax and grammar. Do not use any slang terms or "text speak," such as BTW, UR, etc.

FILM REVIEW: There will be one major assignment for this course. Students will be required to watch a film which highlights minority group struggle or insight and then write a review of the film. While writing your review, consider these questions:

1. What is the plot of the film? (be very broad; do not spend too much time on this portion)
2. How are minority groups represented? Is it a favorable representation? Is it not?
3. Did the film teach any valuable life lessons relating to minority groups? If so, what were they? If not, why do you feel the film was ineffective?
4. What are the consequences of the national and cultural differences among us?
5. Can only useless things arise from group conflict?
6. Does this film reflect reality at some point in our history or now? Why or why not?
7. Would you recommend the film to others? Why or why not?

Your review must be 3-5 pages in length, typed, and submitted to the dropbox by midnight, December 7th. Those turned in after this date will be considered late. I WILL NOT ACCEPT EMAILED PAPERS. A late submission of your paper will result in a 10 % deduction of the final grade. After December 10th, I will no longer accept it. If you are unsure if the film you want to review is a good choice, feel free to email me and remember: you do not have to marry yourself to only the minority groups that we discuss in class. Below is a brief list of films for you to consider, but you are not required to choose from this list:

- The Help
- Django Unchained
- The Secret Life of Bees
- Freedom Writers
- Crash
- Hotel Rwanda
- Gangs of New York
- Remember the Titans
- The Green Mile
- Anna and the King
- Driving Miss Daisy
- Memoirs of a Geisha
- The Color Purple
- Fiddler on the Roof
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Fried Green Tomatoes

Grading

Exams (4 @ 100 pts each)	400 possible pts	A= 90-100% (450-500 pts)
Film review	60 possible pts	B= 80-89% (400-449 pts)
Discussions (8 @ 5 points each)	40 possible pts	C= 70-79% (350-399 pts)
Total	500 possible pts	D= 60-69% (300-349 pts)
		F= < 60% (<300 pts)

You can keep track of your grades by viewing them in the online gradebook. I will try to post them within 48 hours of your exams.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course. Course handouts, instruction, assignments, powerpoint lectures, and study guides will be posted on ecollege. In order to access ecollege, students will need the following:

- Internet Connections-high speed recommended
- Word processor (Microsoft Word 2003 and newer)

All students should have access to email, as periodic announcements and reminders will be made using this format.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Ecollege technical concerns: Please contact the ecollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (866) 656-5511, or through online chat by clicking on the "Live Support" tab within your ecollege course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The most effective way to communicate with me will be to send me an email or post a question in the virtual office. I will try my best to respond to any questions or concerns you may have within 24 hours during the week. If you need to meet with me in person, please email to schedule an appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Cheating and Plagiarism: Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your own writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but it is against the law.

Any student found to be in violation of University rules will receive an "F" on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. This office may choose to pursue further disciplinary action through the University.

Grades of Incomplete

I do not assign grades of incomplete. Your grade will be assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume that I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences. I will not drop any student from this course. If you feel this course is not for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from the class. Simply not attending in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not happen. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either class or not coming to class.

Extra Credit and Curving

From this syllabus it is very clear as to the number of assignments and the possible points to be attained in the course. You begin earning points on day one. Do not rely on friends' notes or on the professor to explain what the reading are about. It is your responsibility to read, participate, and comprehend the material. If you do not understand a concept or issue, please ask me to clarify.

I will not curve the grades of a class to conform to an artificial bell curve. I will assist the class by means of lectures, discussions, study guides, and reviews, but I do not manipulate your test score, drop a test score, or inflate your test score so that it will be more to your liking. An improvement of grades will come from your studying efforts and not from your instructor's grading, so please do not expect or ask for more, or extra credit points in the course.

Decorum

I ask that you treat your classmates and me with respect during our online discussions. Do not attack anyone, be confrontational, or present your arguments in a hostile manner.

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*).

***** This tentative course schedule is subject to change. It is unlikely that exam dates or the due date for the assignment will change.**

Dates	Topic	Assignment
Week 1: 8/25-8/31	Chapter 1: Exploring Race and Ethnicity	Read chapter 1 and review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 8/31
Week 2: 9/1-9/14	Chapter 2: Prejudice and Chapter 3: Discrimination ** Campus is closed 9/1	Read chapters 2 and 3, review the powerpoints online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 9/14
Week 3: 9/15-9/21	Chapter 4: Immigration	Read chapter 4, review the powerpoint online, and take EXAM 1 by midnight 9/21
Week 4: 9/22-9/28	Chapter 5: Ethnicity and Religion	Read chapter 5, review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 9/28
Week 5: 9/29-10/5	Chapter 6: Native Americans: The First Americans	Read chapter 6, review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 10/5
Week 6: 10/6-10/12	Chapter 7: The Making of African Americans in a White America	Read chapter 7, review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 10/12
Week 7: 10/13-10/19	Chapter 8: African Americans Today	Read chapter 8, review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 10/19
Week 8: 10/20-10/26	Chapter 9: Latinos: The Largest Minority and Chapter 10: Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans	Read chapters 9 and 10, review the powerpoints online, and take EXAM 2 by midnight 10/26
Week 9: 10/27-11/2	Chapter 11: Muslim and Arab Americans: Diverse Minorities	Read chapter 11, review the powerpoint online, and respond to discussion board by midnight 11/2
Week 10: 11/3-11/9	Chapter 12: Asian Americans: Growth and Diversity	Read chapter 12, review the powerpoint online, and respond to the discussion board by midnight 11/9
Week 11: 11/10-11/16	Chapter 13: Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans	Read chapter 13, review the powerpoint online, and respond to the discussion board by midnight 11/13
Week 12: 11/17-11/23	Chapter 14: Jewish Americans: Quest to Maintain Identity	Read chapter 14, review the powerpoint online, and take EXAM 3 by midnight 11/23
Week 13: 11/24-11/30	Chapter 15: Women: The Oppressed Majority **Campus is closed 11/27 and 11/28	Read chapter 15, review the powerpoint online, and respond to the discussion board by midnight 11/30
Week 14: 12/1-12/7	Chapter 16: Beyond the United States: The Comparative Perspective and Chapter 17: Overcoming Exclusion	Read chapter 16, review the powerpoint online, submit Film Review by midnight 12/7
Week 15: 12/8-12/14	FINALS WEEK	Take EXAM 4 by midnight on 12/10/14