

Sociology 234: Race and Ethnicity
SPRING 2007 MWF 1:30-2:20 pm

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Office Hours: MWF 9-10am and TTH 11-12noon

“Sociology...is a science concerning itself with the interpretive understanding of social action and thereby with a causal explanation of its course and consequences.” –Max Weber (1920)

Course Description

In this course we will explore the social meaning of race and ethnicity. We will cover theories of prejudice and discrimination as well of theories of interaction. We will take a close look at ethnicity in the United States, including a historical review of slavery, immigration patterns, and specific ethnic groups within the United States. The course will conclude with contemporary issues of environmental racism, racial residential segregation, and institutional racism. This semester we will explore these connections and other ideas using what C. Wright Mills once called our sociological imagination.

I also hope to provide you with a toolkit of sociological ideas and methods that you can take with you when the class is over. This class is above all an open discussion. All ideas expressed here are simply that--ideas. When we are critical of an idea, we are not critical of the individual expressing or representing it, we just focus on the idea itself. I expect each student to be a critical listener and participant in class and I will do you all the same service. If this is done respectfully and with certain levels of tolerance and acceptance on the receiving end, we will all learn a great deal from each other this semester!

Course Readings Available at the Bookstore

- [1] Ellison and Martin 1999. Race and Ethnic Relations in the US.
- [2] Koltyk, Jo Ann 1998. New Pioneers in the Heartland: Hmong Life in Wisconsin.
- [3] Duneier, Mitch 2000. Sidewalk.

Course Website on D2L <https://uwc.courses.wisconsin.edu/> Type in user ID and password to access. Copies of Syllabus, Assignments, Paper requirements available.

Course Objectives

- Understand basic theories and research in race and ethnicity.
- Thinking and writing from a sociological perspective with respect to contemporary issues of prejudice and discrimination in the family, workforce, and society.

- Apply sociological concepts to institutional structures and processes taking into account ethnicity and race relations.
Develop creative problem solving skills in a small group setting.

Course Requirements

Written Assignments = 30% final grade
Class Participation = 30% final grade
Exams(mid and final)= 40% final grade

= 100% course grade

Written Assignments (30%)

Reaction Paper (10%): One paper 4-5 pages long on a topic of your choice from the course readings. These papers will be a critique of a theoretical issue we read about and discussed in class. In these papers you must make an argument and support it by citing course readings throughout. All late papers will receive half credit maximum. See handout for more details.

Group Project (20%): Although the topic choice is up to the group, it would be appropriate to focus on ethnic elements of the Fox Valley area. This paper will be a thorough report of the research using material gathered by the group and conclude with limitations of your study and suggestions for further research. Each write-up will be a group effort (around 12-15 pages). Be sure to include the names of your group members at the top of your document. Group members will turn peer evaluations at the end of the semester. All late papers will receive half credit maximum. See handouts for more details.

Class Participation (30%)

In-class discussions: In addition to discussing course reading materials, we will raise several theoretical and methodological issues for class discussions. Both quality and relevance of discussion will be assessed. This includes serving as a discussion leader, reading assignments, class quizzes, class participation and presentations, and attendance. **You must attend class and participate in every class to receive maximum points. If you miss more than one class (unexcused) it will affect your final grade.**

Research update: Each student will find one journal article on race and ethnicity issues online (use Social Sciences Full Text via UW Fox library) or in the library, read it, write up a one page summary, and present the article to the class. Pay special attention to the theory, methods, and application of the research article. See handout for more details.

Exams (40%)

Students will take two exams (20% midterm, 20% final) on class materials this semester. The first exam will be mid-term and the second will be the final exam.

Final Grading Scale: (Note: Midterm grades only reflect partial semester points)

94 +up = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

60-69 = D

59 = F

and below

Course Policies

Students are subject to the Honor Code and all policies of the current catalog including academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating on exams etc). Plagiarism is using another person's words and thoughts as your own without citations. If you have any questions about these policies, please ask the instructor. When in doubt, always cite your sources of statistics, data, and quotations.

Course Calendar

Here is the tentative schedule so far; some of it may change by the end of the semester.

Week 1 (1/22-1/26)

M Housekeeping/Refreshing memories of Sociology

No required readings;

Class discussion.

W Race and Ethnicity lecture

Quantitative literacy assignment

F Sociology Paradigms lecture

Week 2 (1/29-2/2)

M Furthering Sociological Understanding with Theories

Readings 1, 2, 3 in Ellison and Martin

W Readings 4 and 5 in Ellison and Martin

F Ethnography as an Example

The Book Vendor chapter pp. 1-42 in Sidewalk

Group projects discussion

Week 3 (2/5-2/9)

M Sidewalk continued

The Magazine Vendor and Men without accounts chapters Pp. 43-111 in Sidewalk

W Back to the Streets

How Sixth Avenue Became a sustaining habit, pp. 112-187 in Sidewalk

F Sidewalk continued

pp. 188-292

Week 4 (2/12-2/16)

M Changing Streets

Pp. 293-conclusion and appendix. in Sidewalk

W Crash I

REACTION PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS TODAY

F No class today, work on group projects

Week 5 (2/19-2/23)

M Crash II and assignment

W Research methods workshop

F Latino/a Americans

Readings 6, 7, 8 in Ellison and martin

Week 6 (2/26- 3/2)

M Readings 9,10,11 in Ellison and Martin

Exam #1 handed out due next monday

W Asian Americans

Readings 12, 13, 14 in Ellison and Martin

F Readings 15,16,17 in Ellison and Martin

Week 7 (3/5-3/9)

M Exam #1 due

Group project workshop

W Readings 18,19,20 in Ellison and Martin

F Catch up on research article presentations today

Week 8 (3/12- 3/16)

M Readings 21, 22, 23 in Ellison and Martin

W Reading 24, 25,26 in Ellison and Martin

F group project workshop day

Week 9 (3/19-3/23)SPRING BREAK< ENJOY!

Week 10 (3/26-3/30)

M Readings 27, 28,29 in Ellison and Martin

W Readings 30, 31, 32 in Ellison and Martin

F Readings 33,34,35 in Ellison and Martin

Week 11 (4/2-4/6)

M Crime and Criminal Justice

Readings 36, 37,38 in Ellison and Martin

W No class today, Greg presenting research paper at Midwest sociological society meetings in Chicago, work on group projects

F ditto weds, work on group projects

Week 12 (4/9-4/13)

M Immigration

Readings 39, 40, 41, in Ellison and martin

W Hmong Life in Wisconsin

pp. 1-58 in Koltyk book

F Group project workshop day

Week 13 (4/16-4/20)

M Hmong Life continued

pp. 59-138 finish Koltyk

W Split Horn video

F Group project workshop day

Week 14 (4/23- 4/27)

M Readings 42,43, and 44 in Ellison and Martin

W Towards the Future

Readings 45 and 46 in Ellison and martin

F Group project workshop day

Week 15 (4/30-5/4)

M Group project workshop day, familiarize with classroom technology please!

W Group project presentations and group paper due

F Group project presentations and group paper due

Week 16 (5/7 and 5/9)

M Group project presentations and group paper due

W Group project presentations and group paper due

FINAL EXAM _____

**NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER FINAL EXAM PERIOD.**

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SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY CODE OF ETHICS FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS: The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is committed to
providing a professional and educational environment that is free of discrimination and
harassment. The procedures for filing complaints of discrimination or harassment are in
the Student handbook.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHOULD CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER. I AM HAPPY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS TO CREATE A FAVORABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL.