

## **RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY (SOC 220)**

**Spring 2007**

**Tuesdays 6:30-9:15pm**

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

email: [ckrcmar@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:ckrcmar@trcc.comnet.edu)

office phone: 860-892-5788

office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-10:30am, and by appointment

my office: Activity Room 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Classroom Bldg.

**Course Overview:** An exploration of historical and social causes of racial/ethnic prejudice and discrimination and how they impact life experiences of dominant and subordinate groups in society.

**Course Objective:** This course examines some “big picture” questions about majority/minority relations. Students will be asked to think about these issues and come to conclusions about them based on insights from sociological research and theory.

### **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

- 1. Class participation= 20%.** This grade depends on your presence in class, pop quizzes, and **in-class assignments** that you complete. You learn best if you take an active part in your education! This is an interactive class. I do not merely stand up in front of class and lecture. You will be required to participate in discussions, games and exercises. **If you miss an in-class assignment, you may not make it up unless you have an excused absence.** Please take note that **the in-class assignments are not all announced beforehand**, nor are they all on the syllabus.
- 2. Action Step= 20%** You are required to hand in a three page report (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins) on an exploration that you did on one of the themes of this course. I will give you a more detailed hand-out to prepare you to do this assignment.
- 3. Research Paper= 30%** You must hand in a 6-8 page paper (typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins) which sociologically analyzes the depiction of racial/ethnic minorities in media. You choose which group you will focus on in the paper. I will hand out detailed guidelines. In addition, you will do an informal presentation to the class on your findings.
- 4. Exams= 30%.** There will be two in-class exams this semester. These exams will be comprised of short essays based on lectures, discussions, films and articles. They are not cumulative!  
**NOTE:** You have the option of doing a service learning project in lieu of taking exam #2. This project includes performing 6 hours of community service and writing a paper about the experience. Details to follow!

### **IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS:**

- This syllabus is to act as a rough guide for the semester; it is not set in stone. The dates may shift a bit, or I may change some of the articles we read or the assignments we do. There will also be guest speakers at different times throughout the semester. **If you are the type of student that gets frustrated by syllabus changes, please do not take this class.** Having fun with this class requires flexibility!
- There will be **guest speakers** throughout the semester. I do not put them on the syllabus because often they cannot commit until the last minute. I will alert you of any up-coming guest speakers once they are confirmed.
- If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting class notes, articles, and any assignments I give during class from a fellow student.** I will not re-teach a class to you!
- Excused absences:** Only a signed doctor's note (for you, your child or an elderly or disabled person for whom you are responsible) or proof of family emergency or religious commitment will be acceptable. **Those are the only reasons you may reschedule an exam or turn in an assignment late. Otherwise, I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. It is unfair to other students who have worked hard to complete assignments on time. If you have a valid reason to turn in an assignment late or take an exam at a different time, you MUST TALK TO ME BEFORE THE DUE DATE.**
- If you require certain accommodations for test-taking, please see me before the exam.
- There may be extra credit opportunities during the course of the semester.

### Attendance

In addition to knowing your attendance practices from in-class assignments that you complete, I will also take attendance every class period. As you know from the syllabus, attendance figures prominently in your final class grade.

### Course Evaluation

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	94- 100	4.0
A-	90- 93	3.7
B+	87- 89	3.3
B	83- 86	3.0
B-	80- 82	2.7
C+	77- 79	2.3
C	73- 76	2.0
C-	70- 72	1.7
D+	67- 69	1.3
D	63- 66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F		0.0

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; **clearly document the sources of the material you use from others**; and act at all times with honor. **If you ever present someone else's work as your own** (This comes in the form of cheating on assignments or exams and/or plagiarizing when writing essays and papers.), you will **automatically fail** that particular assignment.

### College Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. From the 11th week through the end of the 13th week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

### Disabilities Statement

In addition to contacting me, if you have a disability which may affect your work in this course, please contact Chris Scarborough (892-5751) if you have a learning disability or ADD. Please contact Judy Hilburger (892-5744) or Matt Liscum (383-5240) if you have a physical, visual, hearing, or psychiatric disability.

### Cellular Phones and Beepers

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource

Center **only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode**. Vibrating mode is not allowed, as it can sometimes be heard! **Under no circumstances are you to answer your phone or text message in class. If I see you answering your phone or text messaging, I will take your phone til the end of class.**

When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Marger, Race & Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.  
Roberts, Killing the Black Body  
\*\*\*I will give you any additional articles you need during the semester.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**1/23: CLASS INTRODUCTION** in-class exercise: an honest exploration of our own racial/ethnic attitudes; presentation on Krcmar's research of pan-Asian identity; discussion of social construction of race

**1/30: RACIAL/ETHNIC STRATIFICATION** Readings due: Marger chapters 1 & 2, Newsweek report on race in America; film: *Hotel Rwanda* (a look at the tragic consequences of the social construction of race)

**2/6: TECHNIQUES OF DOMINANCE** Readings due: Marger chapter 3, articles on ethnic humor

**2/13: PATTERNS OF ETHNIC RELATIONS** Readings due: Marger chapter 4; articles on Affirmative Action

**2/20: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN ETHNIC HIERARCHY** Readings due: Marger chapter 5; articles on Hate Crimes

**2/27: AFRICAN AMERICANS** readings due: Marger chapter 9; chapters 1-4 in Roberts

**3/6: HISPANIC AMERICANS & ASIAN AMERICANS:** readings due: Marger chapter 10 & 11

**3/13: EXAM #1**

**3/20: NO CLASSES (SPRING BREAK)**

**3/27: NATIVE AMERICANS & JEWISH AMERICANS** readings due: Marger chapters 6 & 8

**4/3: CURRENT & FUTURE ISSUES OF RACE IN THE USA** reading due: Marger chapter 12; film: *Blue Eyed*

**4/10: SOUTH AFRICA:** reading due: Marger chapter 13; film: *Dry White Season*; **BRAZIL** reading due: Marger chapter 14

**4/17: GLOBAL ISSUES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT** reading due: Marger chapter 17; film: *Disposable People*; **Action Step due!**

**4/24:** class presentations on what you found out in your research papers

**5/1: EXAM #2 or Service Learning project due; Research paper due**