

RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY (SOC 220)

FALL 2011

WEDNESDAYS 6:00-8:45pm

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar

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office hours: by appointment

office phone: 860-892-5788

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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 societies around the world.

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= 25%.** This grade depends on your presence in class and the **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, and there may be pop quizzes. **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= 25%** Guidelines on Blackboard.
3. **Research Paper or Service Learning Paper= 25%** Guidelines for both on Blackboard.
4. **Exams= 25%.** There will be two take-home exams this semester. These exams will be comprised of short essays based on lectures, discussions, films and articles.

IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS:

1. 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, and at times they need to change the date of their appearance. **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!
2. **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!
3. **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.**
4. If you require certain accommodations, please talk to me.
5. There will be **extra credit opportunities** during the course of the semester. If you attend any three activities on campus and write a one-page essay describing the event and applying at least three sociological concepts to it, you'll get an additional half-letter grade on your final grade.

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** the class.

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.

Email Communication

Email to my TRCC account—not through Blackboard! **If you ever send me an email, you must send it from an email account that looks legitimate.** I will not open emails from accounts such as hotbabe@yahoo.com or pimpmaster@hotmail.com or any other email address that reads suspiciously like a pornography address.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Marger, Race & Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives, 8th ed.

***I will distribute any other articles I assign during the semester.

CLASS SCHEDULE

8/31: CLASS INTRODUCTION: in-class exercise: an exploration of our own racial/ethnic prejudice; presentation on Krcmar's research of pan-Asian identity; discussion of social construction of race

9/7: INTRO & RACIAL/ETHNIC STRATIFICATION: readings due: Marger chapters 1 & 2; **assignment: Bring in something that represents your racial or ethnic heritage.**

9/14: TOOLS OF DOMINANCE: readings due: Marger chapter 3; Samantha Punzalan to speak about Service Learning

9/21: PATTERNS OF ETHNIC RELATIONS: readings due: Marger chapter 4 & article about color-blind society; guest speaker from CT Pardon Project

9/28: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN ETHNIC HIERARCHY: readings due: Marger chapter 5; discussion about Action Step, Service Learning and Research paper
(NOTE: Volunteer Service Fair 11am-2pm)

10/5: IMMIGRATION AND THE FOUNDATIONS: readings due Marger chapter 5; discussion & debate on immigration

10/12: NATIVE AMERICANS & AFRICAN AMERICANS: readings due: Marger chapters 6 & 7;
film: *Blue Eyed*

10/19: HISPANIC AMERICANS & ASIAN AMERICANS: readings due: Marger chapter 8 & 9; discussion & debate about Affirmative Action (guidelines will be given)

10/26: guest speaker: Jack Hasegawa re: Shef vs. O'Neil

11/2: CURRENT & FUTURE ISSUES OF RACE IN THE USA: readings due: Marger chapter 12; discussion & debate on criminal justice system and minorities

11/9: WHITE ETHNIC AMERICANS & JEWISH AMERICANS: readings due: Marger chapters 10 & 11

11/16: SOUTH AFRICA & BRAZIL: readings due: Marger chapters 13 & 14; film: *Cry Freedom*

11/23: no class...Thanksgiving Break!

11/30: discussion about Hurricane Katrina

12/7: CANADA & GLOBAL ISSUES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT: readings due: Marger chapter 15 & 16; discussion of genocide in Darfur; **Action Step due**

12/14: class wrap-up: discussion about Action Steps and/or debates about critical topics in race; **Exam #2 due**

NOTE: Service Learning or Research Papers due by noon on 12/16