



## SOCIOLOGY 365: Race, Culture, and Ethnicity

### Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides a sociological approach to minority and ethnic relations that will help you to understand the relevance of race and culture in society today. This course introduces the basic theories related to the study of race and ethnic relations, as well as the histories and present status of different racial and ethnic groups in the United States. In general, the course raises questions about continuing prejudice and racism in our society. The focus of this course is on U.S. society, however, race and ethnicity are hardly bound by borders and for that reason, we also take into account perspectives from around the globe. Thus, while lectures and readings will mainly focus on the United States, they will also address other regions of the world. Issues to be explored include: immigration, cultural assimilation, cultural identity, multiracial consciousness, segregation, civil rights, and affirmative action.

**"The fact of the matter is that nationalism thinks in terms of historical destinies, while racism dreams of eternal contaminations, transmitted from the origins of time through an endless sequence of loathsome copulations: outside history."**

**Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*: p. 149**

### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop an understanding of the basic concepts within the subject of race and ethnicity and the various ways race and ethnicity are created and defined.
2. Explore and differentiate between competing theories and explanations of prejudice and discrimination.
3. Examine how social structure influences and is influenced by minority and ethnic relations.
4. Understand the history of race relations in the United States.
5. Analyze the impact of inequality and stratification on the experience of racial groups in the United States and in other parts of the globe.
6. Develop effective writing skills.

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Adams State College  
Department of Sociology  
Spring 2012  
TR 1:00-2:15pm  
MCD, 317

**Texts and Articles:**

*Race, Ethnicity and Gender* (REG below), edited by Joseph F. Healey and Eileen O'Brien. Pine Forge Press, Second edition: 2007.

\*Additional articles are available on Website and via hyperlinks in the syllabus.

**Assignments/Exams****Participation (20%):**

**Part I (10%):** This class will include both lecture and discussion. For this reason, it is expected that students *read* the assigned material *before class* so that they can actively participate in classroom discussions. It should go without saying but active participation requires students to be present in the classroom. If a student misses an extensive amount of class (more than 3 classes), his/her participation grade will drop significantly.

**Part II (10%):** Race, culture and ethnicity are social issues that permeate our daily lives. As a result, most Thursdays (8 in all, specific dates highlighted below) I expect students to come to class prepared to discuss and analyze a particular newspaper article through the lens of the particular concept that we are discussing that week (i.e., discrimination, prejudice, culture, etc.). For this assignment I expect students to: (1) regularly read a professional news source such as the New York Times, The Economist, The Los Angeles Times, The BBC, The Denver Post, etc, (2) each week choose an article that fits with the core theme for the class that week, (3) print the article and read it and (4) jot down several discussion questions for the class to consider. In class I will expect each student to *be prepared to* provide a brief review of his/her article and then we will all discuss the *student generated* discussion questions. At the end of class students will turn in their articles along with their discussion questions (be sure to write your name on your article!).

**Reflective essay (10%):** Early in the semester you will write an essay that reflects on your personal experience with race. Instructions for this assignment are provided on the course website. The essay is due in class on 01/31/2012.

**Midterm exam (20%):** A midterm exam will be given on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The exam consists of multiple choice, true/false questions and short essays. If you read and attend lecture you will be well prepared for the exam. An in-class review will be provided as well.

**Final paper (20%):** Students will pick a research topic related to the class and write a six to eight page essay. Each student will also provide an in-class presentation related to their research topic. The paper can be on any topic related to the course with written approval or in consultation with the instructor. Each student should begin to develop his or her paper topic early in the semester. The primary requirement of the paper is that you incorporate sociological concepts into your research topics (i.e., social capital, stratification, tracking, etc.). Each student must submit a topic paragraph to the instructor by 02/28/2012 and the final paper is due 04/17/2012. Literature used to develop the paper must be from professional, peer-reviewed journals and other academic sources.

**Final Presentation (10%):** Students will present their final paper topics in class during the last few weeks of the semester. Presenters are allotted 15 minutes each. Students should

focus on presenting the basic argument of their final paper as clearly and concisely as possible. Each presenter should allot several minutes at the end for feedback and suggestions.

**Final Exam (20%):** Students will take a comprehensive final exam during finals week. The format of the exam will be similar to that of the midterm, and while it will focus on the second half of the semester, students should be prepared to answer questions pertaining to the first half of the semester as well. The exam will be held in class on Wednesday, May 9th at 3:00pm.

**Written work:** All written work must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font (Garamond or Times New Roman preferred), with 1" margins on all sides. Papers *may not* be turned in via e-mail unless I request a digital copy. Late papers will be penalized with a 10 point deduction for each day after the deadline.

**Extra Credit:** For each essay, if you utilize the writing lab I will increase your final grade for that particular assignment by 5 percent. (Note: You will need to provide edited drafts with your final essay.)

**Persons with Disabilities:** If you have any sort of disability or personal problem which prevents the fullest expression of your abilities, please let me know as soon as possible during the semester - before it interferes with your work - so that I can make a reasonable accommodation for your needs.

**Academic Misconduct:** Taking the easy way out will have real consequences in this class. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty will be dropped from the course and formal charges will be brought before the Department Chair.

| Date  | Topic                                  | Reading                                                                                                                                                               | Assignments                                              |
|-------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/17 | Intro                                  | -Introduction to syllabus, review of course expectations.                                                                                                             | *Read "Tips for being a successful student." (Website.)  |
| 01/19 | Ethnic Groups                          | -“Racial Identities in 2000” by Reynolds Farley. (Website.)<br>-“Ethnic Groups” by Max Weber. (Website.)                                                              | *Begin Reflective Essay! (See website for instructions.) |
| 01/24 | The Rise of Nationalism and Capitalism | -“‘Race’ and the Construction of Human Identity” by Audrey Smedley (Website).                                                                                         |                                                          |
| 01/26 |                                        | -REG, Chapter 3, pp. 101-134.<br>-“Introduction” pp. 1-7 and<br>“Patriotism and Racism” pp. 141-154 from <i>Imagined Communities</i> by Benedict Anderson. (Website.) | *Turn in article/questions.                              |

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       |                                                                          | *Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles.                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
| 01/31 | Scientific Racism                                                        | -“The Tribal Twenties,” pp. 264-286 from <i>Strangers in the Land</i> by John Higham. (Website.)                                                          | *Reflective essay due in class!                                                                      |
| 02/02 |                                                                          | -“Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.” (Website.)<br>*Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles.                         | *Turn in article/questions.                                                                          |
| 02/07 | Prejudice, Discrimination and Racism in the U.S.                         | -REG, Chapter 1, pp. 1-23.                                                                                                                                | -Start thinking about your final presentation/paper. Schedule meeting with me to discuss your topic. |
| 02/9  |                                                                          | -REG, Chapter 1, pp. 23-50.<br>*Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles.                                                                         | *Turn in article/questions.                                                                          |
| 02/14 | Affirmative action or Something Else?                                    | REG, Chapter 4, pp. 135-155 and pp. 168-171.                                                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
| 02/16 |                                                                          | -REGC, Chapter 1, “Affirmative Actions: Is it time to end racial preferences?” pp. 1-22. (Website.)<br>*Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles. | *Turn in article/questions.                                                                          |
| 02/21 | Segregation, Post-Industrial Society and Minority Development in the U.S | -REG, Chapter 5, pp. 173-204.                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
| 02/23 |                                                                          | -REG, Chapter 5, pp. 204-226.<br>*Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles.                                                                       | *Turn in article/questions.                                                                          |
| 02/28 |                                                                          | -REG, Chapter 5, pp. 204-226. (Cont.)                                                                                                                     | *Submit topic paragraph in class for final paper.                                                    |
| 03/01 | Native Americans: the Costs of “Progress”                                | -REG, Chapter 6, pp. 227-247.<br>*Discuss students' analysis of newspaper articles.                                                                       | *Turn in article/questions.                                                                          |
| 03/06 |                                                                          | -REGC, Chapter 6, pp. 117-140. (Website.)<br>-In-class video (Aaron Huey: America's Native Prisoners of War)                                              |                                                                                                      |
| 03/08 | No class. (Science fair.)                                                | -Begin studying for midterm.<br>-Mid-term review posted online.                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 03/13 | No Class (Spring Break)                          | <b>Spring Break!</b><br>-Keep working on final presentation/paper!!!                                                                                                                                                                     |                             |
| 03/15 | No Class (Spring Break)                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 03/20 | Midterm Exam                                     | -Mid-term exam.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 03/22 | Assimilation and Acculturation of New Immigrants | -“The Hispanic Challenge”, by Samuel Huntington. (Website.)<br>-“Immigration and Ethnic and Racial Inequality in the United States” by Mary C. Waters and Karl Eschbach (Website.)<br>*Discuss students’ analysis of newspaper articles. | *Turn in article/questions. |
| 03/27 | Dual labor markets                               | -“A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism” by Edna Bonacich. (Website.)                                                                                                                                                                            |                             |
| 03/29 | Documentary                                      | <i>The Otherside of Immigration</i> (55min)                                                                                                                                                                                              |                             |
| 04/03 | Hispanics in the S.W.                            | -“The Hispano,” by Richard R. Nostrand, from <i>The Hispano Homeland</i> , pp. 1-25. (Website.)                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 04/05 |                                                  | -“Colonized and Immigrant Minorities” by Robert Blauner. (Website.)<br>*Discuss students’ analysis of newspaper articles.                                                                                                                | *Turn in article/questions. |
| 04/10 | Los Penitentes                                   | -“The Penitentes of the Sangre de Cristos” by Bill Tate (Website.)                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
| 04/12 | Guest Speaker                                    | Audrey Quintana                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 04/17 | Presentations                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | *Final Paper Due in Class   |
| 04/19 | Presentations                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 04/24 | Presentations                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 04/26 | Presentations                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 05/01 | Presentations                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                             |
| 05/03 | Presentations Review                             | -Finish up presentations (if nec.)<br>-In-class review for Final Exam                                                                                                                                                                    |                             |
| 05/09 | Final Exam                                       | <b>Final Exam Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 |                             |