

**SOC 2319:06: Introduction to Ethnic Studies**

**Professor: Haitrieu Nguyen**

**Location: CHSS 110**

**Class Meeting Times: Tues/Thurs 11-12:50pm**

**Office: CHSS Room 270D**

**Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:30pm  
or by appointment**

**Phone: 936-294-4537 (direct)  
936-294-1512 (dept)**

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**Course Description:** This course is designed as a philosophical analysis of the issues of race, gender, class, and culture. Unlike what my colleagues in ethnic studies or anthropology might examine related to these issues, as a philosopher I am concerned with the epistemological and normative concepts and principles that undergird them. We can get at these concepts and principles through two methods: first, through the analysis of empirical data and historical records; second, through conceptual reflection. We will use both methods in this course. This course is taught with the expectation that few if any of you will work as academics in the future. As such, my hope is that you gain the necessary skills and knowledge-base transferable to whatever it is you one day do as a vocation. Also, I hope the course provides depth to your thinking and self-reflection, and contributes to your personal interactions with others.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce the histories and key concepts of the different racial and ethnic groups that constitute the melting pot of America.
2. Discuss how race and ethnicity can intersect with other differences such as gender, class, education, and wealth
3. Explain the social construct of these differences
4. Reflect, think critically, and discuss these important issues

**Text:** *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class* (7th edition) by Joseph F. Healey

**Course Format:** The course is mostly lecture-based, with the expectation that students will involve themselves in discussions that arise from the lectures. As the course evolves, students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the jargon and statistics essential to analyzing the issues at hand. It is important that students interrogate the material by asking questions and posing alternative explanations.

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete assigned readings before the class lecture, take the four required examinations, and actively participate in class meetings and activities.

**Reading Assignments:** Lectures and class activities will require that you have done the assigned reading prior to coming to class. You will not be able to fully engage in the discussions otherwise.

**Exams:** There will be FOUR non-cumulative exams in the course. They will include all the readings, lectures, discussions, and films up to the point of the exam. They will be multiple choice and true/false questions. The specific date for each exam will be announced in the class and on the Blackboard as the course progresses.

**Class Attendance (4%):** Regular class attendance is expected of every student according to the University's policy. At the end of the semester, exceptionally high or low class involvement will affect the borderline grades. To achieve an "A" in attendance, the student cannot miss more than 3 classes.

**Extra credits:** 4 surprised extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester. Thus it is in your interest to regular attend classes. They may be in the form of a surprised quiz over the reading or a reflection paper.

**Grading Assessment:** 4 Major Exams = 96%    Attendance = 4%    Total: 100%

You should get about 90% overall for an "A", 80% for a "B", 70% for a "C", and 60% for a "D". I reserve the right to change these cut-offs at the end of the semester if deemed necessary. You will need to consult the blackboard for the dates of major exams, grades, and other important announcements related to the course. To access the Blackboard, go to [www.shsu.edu](http://www.shsu.edu) and select "Blackboard" at "University Fast Links "

**Missed Exams:** Makeup exams will not be given, except under emergency situations and you must contact me at least one hour before the exam. In addition you will need to provide documentation of the emergency such as a doctor's note. A traffic ticket or your alarm failing to ring off does not count as an emergency.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Disabled Student Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**Classroom Rule of Conduct:** Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the Component and of The Texas State University System, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

Conduct that is detrimental to the running of the course will result first in a warning, and then next in an automatic expulsion from the course. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, repeated outbursts in class unrelated to, or inappropriate for, the discussion; repeated use of a cell phone; violent or threatening language toward one's fellow classmates or the professor; repeated conversations with other students that distract the class or the professor; eating or drinking food that causes a distract for students or the professor.

ALL CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURN OFF OR PUT IN SILENT MODE DURING THE CLASS.  
You may be asked to leave the class if you use your cell phone during classroom time.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

August 24	Welcome! Class orientation
August 29-31	Harvey Hurricane
Sept. 5-7	Chapter 1 Diversity in the United States
Sept. 12-14	Chapter 2 Assimilation and Pluralism
Sept. 19-21	Chapter 3 Prejudice and Discrimination
Sept. 26	Review chapters 1-3
Sept. 28	EXAM 1
Oct. 3-5	Chapter 4 Development of Dominant-Minority Group Relations
Oct. 10-12	Chapter 6 African Americans
Oct 17	REVIEW Chapters 4&6
Oct. 19	EXAM 2
Oct. 24-26	Chapter 7 Native Americans
Oct. 31-Nov. 2	Chapter 8 Hispanic Americans
Nov. 7	Review Chapters 7-8
Nov. 9	EXAM 3
Nov. 14-16	Chapter 9 Asian Americans
Nov. 21	Chapter 10 New Americans, Immigration, Assimilation, and Old Challenges
Nov. 28	Chapter 9-10 Review
Nov. 30	EXAM 4

\*Disclaimer: this syllabus is not a legal contract. The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus during the course.