

SOC 2319.15: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2017

Location: Internet Class Meeting Times: No Class Meetings – All Internet-Based

Instructor: Caron Charlton Cates

Office Location: CHSS Building – room 270S

Instructor Contact Information: Phone: 936-294-1961 (office); 936- 294-1512 (dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax)

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Office Hours: - I can be reached via e-mail Monday – Friday from 10:00 – 6:00. I will respond to e-mails within 48 hours of receiving them or you can set up an appointment with me online.

Course Description: In this introductory course students will explore ethnicity, race, religious affiliation and gender using sociological concepts. The main theories used to understand minority studies will be introduced and students will examine the histories and current circumstances of the principal minority groups in the U.S. There are no prerequisite courses. This class is web based class with four exams.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Develop, refine, and reinforce critical thinking skills.
- (2) Develop, refine, and reinforce the ability to communicate complex, potentially controversial ideas.
- (3) Develop, refine, and reinforce independent research and study skills.
- (4) Develop, refine, and reinforce the ability to discuss, debate, and explore complex, potentially controversial ideas in a communal context.
- (5) Develop, refine, and reinforce the comprehension of the complexity of the issues of race, class, gender, and culture.
- (6) Develop, refine, and reinforce the ability to understand, decipher, and read graphs and data points.

Toward the end of the semester, a multiple choice, anonymous, questionnaire will be distributed in class. All students in all SOCI 2319 courses will be asked to participate in the activity. This is a tool the Sociology Department will use to monitor progress on student learning objectives.

Skill Objectives:

- **think critically** about current events in an increasingly diverse U.S. society;
- reflect on and express your own culture, values, ideas and **personal and social responsibilities** as a member of our multicultural society;
- **communicate** intercultural competence, understanding, and interaction **orally and in writing**.

Text: Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class (7th edition) by Joseph F. Healey ISBN 978-1-4522-7573-4 This is the only book required for this course; you will need to purchase this book.

Supplemental Materials: There will be a few Web links placed on Blackboard during the course, to supplemental and reinforce the readings. I will also reference graphs, articles, legislation, and legal cases, which I will then place online.

This is an internet course. Students are required to have a SHSU student identification card and a SHSU email account in order to enroll in the class. The SHSU email account is necessary to access Blackboard which is the software used for the course. The class is conducted completely over the Blackboard system. Blackboard is available at the top of the SHSU web page or under the Information box on the right hand side of the page (these locations change when they change the website). To log on, type your SHSU email address and your password. Once in the online portal, click on SOC 2319 and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item you wish to access such as syllabus of calendar for information.

Course Notes: Attendance Policy: This is an internet class so no attendance records are kept.

Exams and Grading Plan: Exams: There will be four exams worth 100 points each during the semester. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Your exams will be available under the Quiz and Exams tab on the days they are to be taken. **The four tests are on Sept 13-14, Oct 4-5, Nov 1-2 and Dec 1-2.** These are not comprehensive exams. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a make-up exam.

You will have between 8:00 a.m. on the first day until 11:00 p.m. on the second day to take the exam. You will have only 90 minutes to complete each exam. The exams are open-note exams but you must complete the exam in 90 minutes or you will be penalized 2 points for each minute past 90 minutes.

You can only take each exam once so be sure to answer all of the exam questions before you submit the exam. Also be sure to have a secure internet connection. Dial-up phone line connections are not secure and tend to kick you off the Internet. In the event that a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a make-up exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

Make up Exams: Make up exams will be allowed ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES. In the event that a student could not take one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Remember make-up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests. The quizzes and discussions cannot be made up once they have closed. For this reason I give you 6 and hold you responsible for 5. I do not drop the lowest test grade, each test is equally weighted. I encourage you to take the exams and quizzes early when they open. Make-up exam day is **Dec 4th**, you are only allowed to make-up one exam.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester, six quizzes (worth five points each) will be given. You will only be responsible for 5 of the 6 quizzes. I will take your 4 best scores. In the event you complete all 6 quizzes you may use your lowest grade for extra credit. Quizzes will be made up of multiple choice questions from particular chapters. More on quizzes to follow.

Quiz dates and discussion dates will be posted on the calendar by **August 23rd**.

Discussion Groups: At five points throughout the semester, students will be asked to participate in discussion groups (again, you are only responsible for 5/6 discussion rooms and will take your 5 best scores). In the event you complete all 6 discussions you may use your lowest for extra credit. Each discussion group is worth 5 points, making up the total 20 points for class participation. Discussion groups will be open for five days so that students with busy schedules will have ample time to participate. In order to do well in discussion groups, students will need to be familiar with the readings/notes prior to participating. More on this will follow in the semester.

Exam #1 100 points

Exam #2 100 points

Exam #3 100 points

Exam #4 100 points

Quizzes 25 points

Discussion Groups 25 points

Final grades will be based on the total number of points in the class:

450 - 405 - A

404 - 360 - B

359 - 315 - C

314 – 270 - D

269 - 0 - F

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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. Cheating on an exam, assignment and/or a class activity is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, assignment or class activity in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. 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.

Americans with Disabilities Act: 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 visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. 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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, and then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: 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. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Study Tips: Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has her own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study guides prior to tests. The

SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommend that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

COURSE OUTLINE (A calendar will be posted on August 23rd)

First Class – August 23

Chapter 1: Diversity in the United States: Questions and Concepts

Chapter 2: Assimilation and Pluralism: From Immigrants to White Ethnics

Chapter 3: Prejudice and Discrimination

Chapter 4: The Development of Dominant-Minority Group Relations in Preindustrial America: The Origins of Slavery

Chapter 5: Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations: From Slavery to Segregation and the Coming of Postindustrial Society

Chapter 6: African Americans

Chapter 7: Native Americans

Chapter 8: Hispanic Americans

Chapter 9: Asian Americans

Chapter 10: New Americans, Immigration, Assimilation, and Old Challenges

Chapter 11: Gender

Chapter 12: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Americans

Chapter 13: Dominant Minority Relations in Cross-National Perspective

Chapter 14: Minority Groups and U.S. Society: Themes, Patterns, and the Future

NO FINAL EXAM

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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