

SOC 2319.02/90: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 Credit Hours) Fall 2017

Location: CHSS 110

Class Meeting Times: Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday 10:00-10:50

Instructor: Caron Charlton Cates

Office Location: CHSS, Room 270-S

Instructor Contact Information: Phone: 936-294-1961 (office); 936- 294-1512 (dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: SOC_CCC@shsu.edu

Office Hours: M/W/F 11-12:30, MW 2:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description: In this introductory course students will survey the field and problems of Ethnic Studies as an area of knowledge and investigation. Major considerations of the entire Ethnic Studies field will be defined and analyzed. Through the exploration of the cultures, histories and current circumstances of the main ethnic groups in the U.S., students will gain intercultural familiarity and understanding.

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.

Required Supplies: You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard and your SHSU email address for course materials and announcements.

Attendance Policy: I will take roll according to university policy. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present before 5 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who miss three or more classes will be penalized 3 points off of their total accumulated points for each class missed starting with their forth absence. Students who do not miss any class days and are not late to any classes will earn an additional 5 points toward their total accumulated points. EX: $355+5= A$.

Exams and Grading Plan: There will be four multiple-choice exams offered during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the days preceding the exam. These are not comprehensive exams. Make sure to attend class on exam days. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a makeup exam. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed on exam days. A total of 400 possible points will be available. Grades will be assigned according to the following chart:

Grade Chart: 400-360 – A
359-320 – B
319-280 – C
279-240 – D
239 and below – F

Make up Exams: Make up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES**. In the event that a student could not attend one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through verifiable documentation. Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests. Make-up exam day is December 1, 2017.

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. 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 that 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 because 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.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

- 1) Students are to treat other students, guest speakers and faculty with respect.
- 2) Please do not talk while the professor, guest lecturer, or another classmate is speaking or during films. Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk during class as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
- 3) Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two (2) points from your next exam. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom. This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
- 4) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and ear buds should be removed during class.
- 5) Computers may be used to take notes only. You must sit in the first two rows of the classroom to use a computer.
- 6) Please no food, drink or tobacco products in the classroom.

- 7) Students may record lectures with the professor's approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*
<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor if arranged prior to the class session. 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. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*
<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

Instructor Evaluations: Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

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 recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

COURSE OUTLINE

First class day is August 23, 2017. The course outline will be posted on blackboard by August 25th.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. **As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask any student or students to leave class if I believe that their behavior is disruptive to the class and the learning environment.** In other words, come to class prepared and be respectful to other students. Any other behavior will not be tolerated. **First offense will be a verbal warning, second offense written warning, third offense 2 point deduction, fourth – 4 point, fifth -6 point etc.**

For class discussion to run smoothly, all beepers and cell phones must be turned off during class time. I also ask if you hold a position which requires you to wear a firearm, such as police officers, you must remove your firearms prior to coming to class; in other words, no guns or other "types on weapons" in class.