

Sociology 2319-17: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 credit hours), Spring 2018, Online Class

Instructor: Dr. Emily Cabaniss

Office: CHSS 270N, 936-294-4085

Office Hours: T/TH 11:00-12:30 & by appointment

Email: erc016@shsu.edu [I teach several classes, so please include the full course number (SOCI 2319-17) in the subject line so I know which class you're in.]

Course Description: This course will introduce you to sociological ways of interpreting, analyzing, and explaining issues related to race and ethnicity in contemporary society. From a biological perspective, there is only one “race” of human beings. The genetic codes that create skin color, hair texture, facial features, height, and so on do not come in distinct packages that place us firmly in one category or another, and there are many more differences within groups than between them. Moreover, the boundaries of different racial and ethnic categories have changed – and continue to change – over time. New categories have been created and old categories discarded. Although race and ethnicity are not “real” in a biological sense, they are very real in a social and political sense. In this course, we will examine what it means – from a sociological perspective – to be a member of a racial or ethnic group. 3 credit hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout the semester, we will be working to develop our ability to:

- Describe key concepts, histories, and contemporary issues facing different racial and ethnic groups
- Explain how racial and ethnic differences are socially constructed, maintained, and changed
- Explain how race and ethnicity “intersect” with other categories of difference
- Think critically about these issues, dig deeper, and have fun along the way!

Required Text:

1. Healey, Joseph F., and Eileen O'Brien. 2015. *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Class: The Sociology of Group Conflict and Change*. 7th Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
2. Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

*** All readings should be completed prior to the day they appear on the schedule. ***

COURSE NAVIGATION

This is an online course, designed using the Blackboard system. To get started...

- Go to <https://shsu.blackboard.com>.
- Enter your SHSU username and password.
- Once in Blackboard, click on SOCI 2319 to access the course menu.

The navigation menu for this course is located on the left-hand side of your browser window. To move to different places in the course, you need to click on the navigation links in the menu.

To learn how to use the Blackboard system, start by taking the **Student Orientation Tutorial**.

If you experience any technical difficulty while taking this online course, please contact SHSU Online Helpdesk Support. They are available from 7 am to 12 am Monday through Saturday.

- Helpdesk Phone: 936-294-3780
- Helpdesk Email: delta@shsu.edu

STUDY TIPS

Taking an online class requires a lot of self-discipline and organization to keep up and learn independently. The following suggestions are intended to help:

- Start by **READING** the assigned chapter(s) and/or Blackboard readings.
- Make a list of questions that arose for you after doing the readings.
- Next, carefully go over the **LECTURE NOTES** (PowerPoint slides). To access all the information on the lecture slides, **you must use the “Notes Page” view in PowerPoint.**
 - Since we cannot cover everything in the lecture notes, the focus will be on those concepts and ideas that are most sociologically important.
 - **Lectures will also include discussion of concepts that are not included in the chapter,** but are essential to developing a sociological understanding of the course content.
- Finally, **WATCH** all the videos and video clips included in the module for the week. These are intended to supplement the readings and to deepen your sociological understanding of the topic.
- After studying the readings, the lecture slides, and the videos, try to answer the questions you developed. If you cannot, go back and review the readings, lecture slides, and videos carefully.
- If you still need clarification or have other questions about the material, feel free to contact me at any time. I enjoy interacting with students!

Please also note that the SAM Center is available for students experiencing academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I strongly encourage you to contact the SAM Center at 936-294-4444 for assistance.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Exams (300 points): There will be three non-cumulative exams based on readings, lecture notes, discussions, films, and class activities. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions and is worth a maximum of 100 points. You will have a 24-hour window in which to take the exam. The window opens at 12:00 noon on Thursday and closes at 12:00 noon on Friday. Note that once you have started the exam, you will have **90 minutes** to complete it. Blackboard will automatically submit your responses after that, so **you must complete it in one sitting.** You can take each exam only once. Exams are scheduled for:

Exam 1: February 22-23

Exam 2: March 29-30

Exam 3: May 3-4

All students are required to take the exams during the scheduled time. You may make up missed exams only if you have a verifiable, documented emergency (ex. death in the family, a severe illness of your own). You must notify me at least **ONE HOUR PRIOR** to the start of the exam window and provide me with official documentation regarding your absence (e.g. written note from your doctor). **Missed exams that are not made up within one week of the regularly scheduled exam period will receive a zero.** If you miss an exam for any non-emergency reason (e.g. forgetting to take it, not setting an alarm) or do not provide appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that exam. Make-up exams will cover the same material but may follow a different format.

Quizzes (100 points): At the beginning of each week, you will take an online quiz on the readings assigned for that week. These will be posted on Blackboard by the end of the previous week and you will have until **12:00 noon on Tuesdays** to take them. Note that Blackboard will not let you start a quiz after the deadline

has passed, so don't wait to the last minute to take these. Each quiz is worth a maximum of 10 points. These are open book.

You'll get one "free pass" (10 points) on quizzes to cover unexpected events (forgot to take the quiz, had to go out of town, accidentally submitted it before you were done, internet/computer crashed, etc.) or to supplement a low score. Because everyone gets a free pass, **there will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.**

Extra Credit Discussion Forums: To encourage you to apply what you are learning in class, extra credit discussion forums will be organized several times throughout the semester. These will focus on course content and/or current events, and participation will be entirely optional. When these opportunities arise, they will be posted on Blackboard in the corresponding week's module. If you participate fully in a given week's discussion forum, you will earn 2 points towards your cumulative point total for the semester (see grading scale below). You can participate in as many (or as few) discussion forums as you choose.

Grading Scale: Final grades will be based on a total of 400 points and will be assigned as follows:

360 – 400 = A
320 – 359 = B

280 – 319 = C
240 – 279 = D

0 – 239 = F

Grades that fall short of these thresholds will NOT be rounded up. No exceptions.

POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students must 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. Students engaging in these activities will receive a zero on the exam or assignment in question and will not be eligible to receive extra credit points for the semester (or will forfeit them if they have already been earned). Students who engage in academic dishonesty more than once, will receive an automatic "F" for the course. The university's policy on academic dishonesty can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>. To read the university's Code of Conduct, go to <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>.

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 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). 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holidays: 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 of the Tax Code.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holiday(s) shall present to me a written statement concerning the religious holiday(s). I will, then, complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. The university’s policy may be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Visitors to the Classroom: (Not applicable).

Instructor Evaluations: Toward the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/ instructor evaluation. This is very important to me, the university, and future students. Your feedback helps me make adjustments and improve the course.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change) *asterisk = Black Board reading

Week 1: Jan 18-19	Welcome! Introduction to the course
Week 2: Jan 22-26	*Schwalbe, "Sociological Mindfulness" *Johnson, "The Social Construction of Difference" Ch. 1 Diversity in the United States
Week 3: Jan 29-Feb 2	*Newman, "Building Order, Culture and History" *Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" Take online quiz #1 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 4: Feb 5-9	Ch. 2 Assimilation and Pluralism: From Immigrants to White Ethnics (p. 30-62) Take online quiz #2 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 5: Feb 12-16	Ch. 3 Prejudice and Discrimination Ch. 5 Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations (p. 141-end) Take online quiz #3 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 6: Feb 19-23	EXAM 1 is scheduled Feb 22-23 (Remember, the exam window opens at 12:00 noon on Thursday; you must complete the exam by 12:00 noon on Friday.)
Week 7: Feb 26-Mar 2	Ch. 7 Native Americans Take online quiz #4 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 8: Mar 5-9	Ch. 5 Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations (p. 128-131) Ch. 6 African Americans Take online quiz #5 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 9: Mar 12-16	Spring Break (no class!)
Week 10: Mar 19-23	Ch. 9 Asian Americans Take online quiz #6 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 11: Mar 26-30	EXAM 2 is scheduled Mar 29-30 (Remember, the exam window opens at 12:00 noon on Thursday; you must complete the exam by 12:00 noon on Friday.)
Week 12: Apr 2-6	Ch. 8 Hispanic Americans Take online quiz #7 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 13: Apr 9-13	Ch. 10 New Americans, Immigration, Assimilation, and Old Challenges Take online quiz #8 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 14: Apr 16-20	Ch. 11 Gender Take online quiz #9 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 15: Apr 23-27	Ch. 12 Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Americans Take online quiz #10 by 12:00 noon Tuesday!
Week 16: Apr 30-May 4	EXAM 3 is scheduled May 3-4 (Remember, the exam window opens at 12:00 noon on Thursday; you must complete the exam by 12:00 noon on Friday.)