

Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States
Sociology 215
Spring Semester 2010
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-10:00am

Instructor: Kristi Brownfield

Office: Faner Hall 3433

Office Hours:

Monday: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Other times by appointment

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Class delicious: <http://delicious.com/siucsoc215>

Google groups: <http://groups.google.com/group/siucsoc215-spring2010>

Required Texts:

Healey, Joseph F. 2007. *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Nagel, Joane. 2003. *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as assimilation, pluralism, ascribed and achieved statuses, prejudice, and discrimination; (b) display basic knowledge of historical, socioeconomic, and political demographics of the U.S.; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about different theories and perspectives pertaining to race, class, gender, and sexuality; and (d) apply sociological concepts to the analysis of race and ethnicity to personal and/or family experience.

This course is designed to introduce students to a wider world than what they may have been previously exposed to. When you leave this class at the end of the semester, you should be able to think critically and question the assumptions you may have had about people who are different from you. We will explore different cultures, what we know about those cultures and *how* we know what we know through readings, discussion, observations, movies, and online blogs and other websites.

This course will be writing intensive.

Plagiarism: See the student handbook for a definition of plagiarism. Taking another person's work and passing it off as your own will not be tolerated in this class. You will receive an immediate zero for plagiarized work. The second attempt at plagiarism will be reported to the university and I reserve the right to give a failing grade for the course at that point.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Midterm Exam -- 100 points

Final Exam -- 100 points

Writing Assignments (4) -- 100 points

In-class Class Exercises, Quizzes – 60 points

Solo Presentation – 20 points

Group Presentation – 20 points

Total possible points: -- 400

The grading scale will be:

360 or above – A

320 to 359 – B

280 to 319 – C

240 to 279 – D

239 or below – F

Attendance and Tardiness: Attendance is not mandatory for this class. If you do not want to be here, there is no reason for any of us to waste our time. However, you should be aware that not attending class will mean that you will do poorly in this course. The material on the exams will not come directly out of the books and will often be based on lecture! If you are not here to participate in class, you will be missing out.

Do not be late for class. Being late is disruptive and disrespectful.

Exams: You will have 2 take home exams during the semester, each worth 100 points. The exams will be a mix of short answer questions and essay. Exams should be typed using 12-point, double-spaced font. Our exams will cover material from the readings, lectures, class discussions, movies, or online materials. Do your own work! No blocks of quotes from the course materials! No use of Wikipedia!

Exercises and Quizzes: There will be a variety of different in-class exercises throughout the semester. They will be focused on the readings due at the start of class. If you are doing the readings weekly, these assignments will be easy! The assignments will range from quizzes to group work.

Writing Assignments: There will be four short out-of-class writing assignments, each worth 25 points, this semester as well. These assignments will range from one to three pages long. These are reflective writing assignments; I want to read your honest reactions to the topics we discuss in each unit as well as your thoughts about the class discussions and how your classmates view the world – especially if their viewpoint is different from yours!

Presentations: You will be asked to give two presentations throughout the course of the semester. A short, 3-5 minute presentation you'll do on your own and a longer 5-7 minute presentation that you'll do in groups of 3-4.

The first presentation will be on an element of popular culture relating specifically to race or ethnicity you wish to share with the class. This could be a clip from a movie, a segment from a television show, song lyrics, a book, an advertisement, a set of clothing or an outfit, or even a video game. Your presentation should include a sample from your source (try Youtube for video clips), lasting no more than 90 seconds and then a short discussion of: (1) how your clip relates to the course and (2) what you thought of the clip. I will demonstrate the format on the first or second class period. Mondays will be set aside for individual presentations. Your grade for this assignment will half graded by me and half self-graded. This means that 10 points of the 20 possible, you assign yourself. Your self-assessment **MUST** be turned in on the day you give your presentation. If you do not turn this in, you will lose those 10 points! I will be grading based on clip appropriateness and your reasoning for choosing that clip.

The group presentations will be in the second half of the semester. They will follow the same format as the individual presentations, but I will assign each group a particular concept we have or will have discussed in the course. Groups must then find an element they think is a good example of that concept. So, for example, if your group is assigned the concept of "power," you might want to talk about the presentation of a president on the television show *24*. You will get to grade your other group members, but not yourself. I will average out the scores your group members assign you and that will be your grade for the presentation.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester through volunteer work, speakers and cultural events. You will need to write a 1-page paper describing the content, your thoughts and reactions, and how the event relates to this class.

Turn all assignments in when they are due! Some credit for your work is better than NO credit for your work. Turning in your work late will cause a five point deduction for each class period you are late. Points will not be deducted if you are out of class because of personal illness (accompanied by documentation from a physician), illness and/or death of an immediate family member, or you have to be away on university business accompanied by a letter from the person in charge of your need to be away.

Schedule:

Week One: 01/20, 01/22

Readings: Healey chapter 1

Privilege and power

Week Two: 01/25, 01/27, 01/29

Readings: Healey chapter 2, Nagel Introduction
Assimilation, pluralism

Week Three: 02/01, 02/03, 02/05

Readings: Healey chapter 3, Nagel chapter 1
Status, discrimination, prejudice
Video: Race: Power of an Illusion

Week Four: 02/08, 02/10, 02/12

Readings: Healey chapter 4, Nagel chapter 2
Theoretical perspectives

Writing Assignment 1: Response paper to Race: Power of an Illusion (Due 02/12/2010)

Week Five: 02/15, 02/17, 02/19

Readings: Healey chapter 6
Video: Smoke Signals
History of Native Americans within the U.S.

Week Six: 02/22, 02/24, 02/26

Readings: Nagel chapter 3
Native Americans in the U.S.

Writing Assignment 2: Hacker's Two Americas (Due 02/26/2010)

Week Seven: 03/01, 03/03, 03/05

Readings: Healey chapter 5
History of African Americans within the U.S.
Midterm handed out
Groups assigned for presentations

Week Eight: 03/08, 03/10, 03/12: Spring Break No Classes

Week Nine: 03/15, 03/17, 03/19

Readings: Nagel chapter 4
Midterm due: 03/15/2010
African Americans in the U.S.

Week Ten: 03/22, 03/24, 03/26

No class 03/26
Readings: Healey chapter 7
Video: Do the Right Thing

Week Eleven: 03/29, 03/31, 04/02

Readings: Healey chapter 7
History of Latino Americans in the U.S.

Note: I may be out of town on 03/31 and/or 04/02. I will arrange assignments to be given during these class periods. Class WILL NOT be cancelled, even if I am out of town.

Week Twelve: 04/05, 04/07, 04/09

Readings: Nagel chapter 5

Latino Americans in the U.S.

Writing Assignment 3: Immigration Reform (Due 04/09/2010)

Week Thirteen: 04/12, 04/14, 04/16

Readings: Healey chapter 8

Video: Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle

History of Asian Americans within the U.S.

Week Fourteen: 04/19, 04/21, 04/23

Readings: Nagel chapter 6

Asian Americans in the U.S.

Week Fifteen: 04/26, 04/28, 04/30

Readings: Healey chapter 10, Nagel chapter 7

History of white ethnic groups in the U.S.

Writing Assignment 4: Your Place In the U.S. (Due 04/30/2010)

Final exam handed out

Week Sixteen: 05/03, 05/05, 05/07

Readings: Nagel chapter 8, Conclusion

Final exam due: 05/07/2010

White ethnic groups in the U.S.

Emergency Procedures: Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu, and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

The instructor will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The BERT Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.