

# **Sociology 215: Race & Ethnic Relations in the U.S. (3 cr. hrs.)**

Section 2 & 4 Fall 2010

Tu Th 9:35-10:50 & Tu Th 12:35-1:50 Parkinson 202

**Instructor: Catherine Field**

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**Office Hours: Mon 2-4 Tue 2-4, Wed 2-4, Thu 11-12, Fri 11-12**

**COURSE FORMAT:** Lectures, class discussion, audio-visual media, in-class exercises, and guest lectures.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as race and ethnicity, as well as diversity, assimilation, pluralism, prejudice, and discrimination; (b) display basic knowledge of historical socioeconomic, and political forces and demographics shaping U.S. racial policies, politics and culture; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about different theories and perspectives pertaining to race, class, gender, and sexuality; and (d) apply sociological concepts for the analysis of race and ethnicity to their own experience

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The United States is an increasingly diverse society as witnessed by the changing demographics of race and ethnic relations. To be effective citizens, all students will need exposure to the sociology, history and culture of a variety of ethno-racial groups. Further, it is important for citizens in this globalizing world to understand how gender and class may shape people's experiences of race-ethnicity. Along with the academic content, the course will also focus on providing students with skills for effectively communicating on these topics.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** 1) *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Third Edition.* Joseph F. Healey. Published in 2010 by Pine Forge Press. 2) *Nigger: An Autobiography.* Dick Gregory with Robert Lipsyte. Copyright 1964.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

100 pts.	Exam 1
100 pts.	Exam 2
100 pts.	Paper
100 pts.	Final exam
100 pts.	Attendance/Participation
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500 pts.	Total

The grading scale will be as follows: A=450+, B=400+, C=350+, D=300+.

There will be three exams, of which any may be objective (multiple choice, for example) or subjective (essay) or both. Exams may include material from the textbook and readings as well as from the lecture. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be completed within one calendar week of the test date. Additionally, there will be a paper due on a specific date, on a topic to be assigned. Occasionally attendance at events on campus will be given up to 10 extra credit points. These events will be announced in class.

It is expected that all work submitted by the student (whether papers or tests) will be her or his original work. Plagiarism of any sort will be dealt with in accordance with university policy.

Students using laptops or netbooks to take notes are asked to sit in the first two rows. Please turn off phones in class.

**Emergency Procedures.** Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some 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, available on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

*Instructors 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 Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.*

- 8/24 Introduction
- 8/26 **Chapter One: Diversity in the United States**
- 8/31 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 3-93
- 9/2 **Chapter Two: Assimilation and Pluralism**
- 9/7 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 97-163
- 9/9
- 9/14 **Chapter Three: The Development of Dominant-Minority Relations in the U.S.**
- 9/16 *Nigger: An Autobiography*, pp 167-209
- 9/21
- 9/23 **Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3 + reading)**
- 9/28 **Chapter Four: Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations**
- 9/30 Online reading: *Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*:  
<http://www.case.edu/president/aaction/UnpackingTheKnapsack.pdf>
- 10/5 **Chapter Five: African Americans**
- 10/7 Online reading: *john a. powell: Social Construction of Whiteness*:  
[http://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_About/002\\_04-background-03-06.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-03-06.htm)
- 10/12 Video: *Tim Wise The Pathology of White Privilege*: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5036267694177913386#docid=3812249801848706206>
- 10/19 Online reading: *Sundown Towns*: <http://sundown.afro.illinois.edu/content/sundown-introduction.pdf>
- 10/21 **Exam Two (Chapters 4-6 & readings/videos)**
- 10/26 **Chapter Seven: Hispanic Americans**
- 10/28
- 11/2 **Chapter Eight: Asian Americans**
- 11/4
- 11/19
- 11/11 **Chapter Nine: New Americans**
- 11/16 **Paper Due**
- 11/18
- 11/22-26 Holiday
- 11/30 **Chapter Ten: Minority Groups and U.S. Society**
- 12/7
- 12/9

Final exam will follow the university's schedule. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. Any changes will be announced in class.