

RACE AND ETHNICITY^{07s}

SOCIOLOGY 273

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Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 MWF

What men believe to be real is real in its consequences. (W. I. Thomas)

Course Description:

A study of racial and ethnic minorities and their relations with majority groups. Analysis of structures and circumstances which promote political, economic, and cultural domination; the role of racist ideology; the pervasive nature of prejudice and discrimination; survival and resistance strategies of the dominated.

Goals of the Course:

America is a country composed of many ethnic groups, most of which migrated here within the last 200 years. In spite of this fact, most Americans are only marginally acquainted with their own ethnic roots and traditions, and are completely ignorant of the experiences of others. Taken to an extreme, this lack of understanding leads to racism, ethnocentrism, and a general intolerance of those different from us. In an attempt to rectify this situation, this course establishes six basic goals:

- Define biological and cultural differences
- Examine the experiences of various immigrant and minority groups
- Analyze sociological theories of race relations
- Identify racist and ethnocentric social patterns
- Examine ideologies which perpetuate inequality

Required Texts:

- *The Social Construction of Race and Ethnicity in the United States (2nd edition)*, by Joan Ferrante and Prince Brown, Jr. (eds.)
- *White Privilege (2nd edition)*, by Paula S. Rothenberg
- Additional readings as assigned

Requirements:

There will be a total of three **examinations** given for the course. Exams will be a combination short answer and essay, and will focus heavily on the understanding of major concepts in the field. Exams will be comprehensive (build on previous knowledge), but will concentrate heavily on material covered since the last test.

In addition to the three examinations, students will be required to participate in a project. The nature of the project will be detailed in class. Grades received on projects will be weighted the same as a test grade.

Attendance is required. Chronic non-attendance will result in a lowering of your overall grade for the course. If you must miss class for any reason, please provide me with a written excuse upon your return to class.

Class participation is expected. Only through an intelligent discussion of problems and perceptions are we able to reach conclusions about the topics of study. Class participation will be rewarded through adjustment to the final grade.

Final grades will be determined by averaging test scores (75%) and project scores (25%). Adjustments up to (+ or -) 10% of the final grade may be made for attendance, class participation, or extra credit projects.

Miscellaneous:

*Student input is strongly requested. If you have difficulty understanding concepts, organization, requirements, etc., please raise questions in class or see me privately. If you are experiencing a personal crisis which prevents you from performing up to your own expectations, please see me after class or in my office.

*Use of cell phones, BlackBerry, or other similar devices is not allowed in class. Before coming to class, make sure all such equipment is turned off and stored out of sight.

*This syllabus and other class resources are available through the Sociology Web Site at

Preparation for exam 1 <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/MBALL/Courses/273/minprep1.pdf>

Preparation for exam 2 <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/MBALL/Courses/273/minprep2.pdf>

Term Paper <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/mball/courses/273/273paper.htm>

Jim Crow 1 <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/MBALL/Courses/273/JimCrowGuide1.pdf>

Jim Crow 2 <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/MBALL/Courses/273/JimCrowGuide2.pdf>

*Additional UW-Superior policies may be seen at:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week
Of

Assignment

1/22 ***Introduction to the Study of Race & Ethnicity***

Ferrante & Brown

- Introduction p.1
- I Can't Imagine Being Any Race Other Than White p.98
- Can Family Members Really Belong To Different Races? p.105

CREATING RACE

1/29 ***What is Race?***

- Anthropology of Race p.376
- Why Race Makes No Sense: The Case of Africans & Native Americans p.322
- Race—U.S. Bureau of the Census (1996) p.485

2/5 ***Ideology and Prejudice: Imagining the "Other"***

Ferrante & Brown

- Brain's Use of Shortcuts Can Be a Route to Bias p.429
- Historical Origins of the Prohibition of Multiracial Legal Identity in the States and the Nation p.129

Rothenberg

- Part 1, "Whiteness: The Power of Invisibility" pp. 9-28

2/12 ***Biology as Ideology: "Proving" the "Other"***

Ferrante & Brown

- Biology and the Social Construction of the 'Race' Concept p. 144
- Known Ancestors and Race p. 166
- On Being Like a Mule p. 305
- The Declaration of Athens p. 355

2/19-26 *Discrimination: Controlling the "Other"*

Ferrante & Brown

- U.S. Supreme Court, "Plessy v. Ferguson" p. 340
- Plessy p. 351
- Article XIX, Chinese: Constitution of the State of California p. 308
- Litigating Whiteness p. 176

Rothenberg

- Part 2, "Whiteness: The Power of the Past" pp. 29-88

EXAM 1

ETHNIC EXPERIENCES

3/5 *Native Americans*

Ferrante & Brown

- Americans United by Myths p.274
- Let's Spread the 'Fun' Around: The Issue of Sports Team Names and Mascots p.437

3/12 *European Immigration and Industrialization*

Ferrante & Brown

- Persons of Mean and Vile Condition p. 310

3/19 Spring Break

3/26 *Black Americans*

Ferrante & Brown

- Thomas Jefferson, "Virginia's Definition of a Mulatto" p.386

Stetson Kennedy

- "Dictates of Racist Etiquette" from *Jim Crow Guide*
<http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/mball/JimCrowGuide1.pdf>
<http://www2.uwsuper.edu/hps/mball/JimCrowGuide2.pdf>

4/2 *Asian-Americans*

Ferrante & Brown

- Then Came the War p.90

- How To Tell Your Friends From The Japs p. 214

4/9 ***Latin-Americans***

Ferrante & Brown

- Ethnic Diversity: Its Historical and Constitutional Roots p.388
- Mojado Like Me p.85
- Theories of Ethnicity: An Overview and Assessment p. 257

EXAM 2

TODAY AND TOMORROW?

4/16 ***I'm Not A Racist, But...***

Rothenberg

- Part 3, "Whiteness: The Power of Privilege" pp. 89-114

Ferrante & Brown

- White Privilege Shapes the US p. 479
- More Thoughts On Why the System of White Privilege is Wrong p. 482

4/23 ***The Future of Ethnic Relations***

Rothenberg

- Part 4, "Whiteness: The Power of Resistance" pp. 115-138

Ferrante & Brown

- White Blindness p. 473

4/30-5/7 ***Student Presentations***

5/14 **FINAL EXAMS** See class schedule for exact date and time.

- ! Please note that this schedule is tentative with respect to dates, and may vary by one or two weeks at any specific time. Class attendance is the only way to be certain of current assignments.