

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2010
SYLLABUS

SOCI 2070: Introduction to Race & Ethnicity 3Hrs	
Department of	Sociology & Psychology
Division of	Liberal Arts & Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Steven L. Arxer
Office Location:	Building 2, Room 321
Office Phone:	972-338-1592
Email Address:	steven.arxer@unt.edu
Office Hours:	TR 10am-12pm/1-2pm; Wed 4-7pm; or by appointment
Classroom Location:	DAL1 348
Class Meeting Days & Times:	TR 8:30am-9:50am
Course Catalog Description:	Introduction to the basic theories within current and historical race and ethnicity relations. Includes examination of evidence of continuing prejudice, institutional discrimination and modern forms of racism. Other topics include assimilation, pluralism, contact hypothesis, anti-racism, immigration, segregation and racial identity.
Required Text:	<p>Title: Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America Authors: Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer Year: 2010</p> <p>*Note: if you have a different edition of the text please notify the professor to make sure that your text will satisfy the requirements of the course</p> <p>**All other reading material will be provided by the professor in advance either electronically or in hardcopy in class</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them. In the course syllabus the text Racial Domination, Racial Progress abbreviated as RD/RP
Access to Learning Resources:	<p>UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</p>
Course Goals or Overview:	
	The goal of this course is to provide a general introduction of the interdisciplinary field of racial and ethnic studies. It is designed to help you engage with fundamental concepts that will allow you to understand the relevance of race and ethnicity in contemporary U.S.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Know the basic theories related to the study of race and ethnic relations.
2	Demonstrate the ability to explain the tendencies that contribute to foster assimilation or cultural distinctiveness among various groups in the U.S
3	Identify various perspectives relevant to ethnic studies (i.e., sociology, history) to analyze how race relations

	have evolved in the U.S.
4	Raise questions about continuing prejudice and racism in our society, and look at applied attempts to rectify racial distrust and alienation.
5	Explain the tendencies that contribute to foster assimilation or cultural distinctiveness among various groups in the U.S

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
<u>I. Introducing Race & Ethnicity</u> Introduction http://www.unt.edu/ethnicstudies/ http://www.unt.edu/edo/multicultural.htm <i>*Access these web links and become familiar with their contents</i>	8/26
Key Terms RD/RP ch. 1	8/31-9/2
Theories of Race & Ethnic Relations Feagin, Joe & Clairece Booher Feagin. "Adaptation and Conflict: Racial and Ethnic Relations in Theoretical Perspective", pp. 25-52	9/7-9/9
The Social (Historical) Invention of Race RD/RP Part 1, ch. 2	9/14-9/16
Major Racial and Ethnic Groups: Overview & General Statistics Kimmel, Michael & Amy Aronson. "Race and Ethnicity", pp. 262-71	9/21
Content Review	9/23
Exam 1	9/28
<u>II. The Institutional Character of Race & Ethnicity</u>	9/30-10/5
The Economic System RD/RP Part II, ch. 4	
Housing and Residential Segregation RD/RP ch. 5	10/7-10/12
The Political System RD/RP ch. 3	10/14-10/19
The Family RD/RP ch. 10	10/21-10/26
10/28 Content Review	10/28
Exam 2	11/2
The Legal System RD/RP ch. 6	11/4-11-9
The Educational System RD/RP ch. 7	11/11-11/16
<u>III. Aesthetics & Identity</u>	11/18-11-23
Media Representations RD/RP ch. 8 Vera, Hernan & Andrew Gordon. <i>Screen Saviors: Hollywood Fictions of Whiteness</i> , pp. 5-16; 33-38; 50-51	

Identity RD/RP ch. 9 PBS video, "A Class Divided"	11/30-12/2
<u>IV. Reflexivity, Social Movement, Racial/Ethnic Justice</u> RD/RP ch. 11 Movie, The Vernon Johns Story	12/7-12/9
Paper Due; Content Review	12/14
Exam 3	12/16
Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions.	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – *written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material.* There are three exams that will be based on class lectures and any additional readings/information assigned in class. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 50 points. The total for all three exams is 150 points.

Assignments – *written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material.* There is one required writing assignment in this course. Students are expected to turn in a 5-7 page paper. The paper is worth a total of 50 points. The instructor will give directions for the paper during the first couple weeks of class.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Writing Assignment	1 major paper, 50 points, 25%	50
Exams	3 Exams, 50 points each, 75%	150
Total:		200

Grade Determination:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	90-100%	180-200
B	80-89%	160-179
C	70-79%	140-159
D	60-69%	120-139
F	Below 60%	119 or lower

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit

the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Any style guide may be used as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

Note: No extensions are given, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Note: If you come in late for an exam and another student has already turned in a completed exam, you cannot take the regular exam

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Classroom Policies

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.
5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**
6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class.

It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **After 3 absences, 5 overall points will be deducted for every class period missed.**
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.