

Course Syllabus

Course Information

**RACE, CLASS, GENDER
SOCIOLOGY 2319
SPRING 2010**

Professor Contact Information

(Professor's name, phone number, email, office location, office hours, other information)

INSTRUCTOR: MERYL G. NASON, PH.D

OFFICE: GR 2.612

OFFICE HOURS: MW 11:30-2:00PM, R 3-3:45PM and by appointment

OFFICE PHONE: 972-883-6722

E-MAIL: MNason@UTDallas.edu

Please Note: I do NOT Use E-LEARNING for e-mail

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

(including required prior knowledge or skills)

none

Course Description

Most people have commonsense understandings of the term “race,” “gender,” and “class.” The primary goal of this course is to question the commonsense understandings of these concepts by introducing students to the **sociological** study of race, gender, and class. This will involve exploring how sociologists define each of these key terms as well as investigating what sociologists have discovered about the influence of these three factors on U.S. society and its members. Second, I hope that this course will enable students to use their newfound sociological understanding of race, class, and gender to better understand their own lives and the opportunities and constraints that their particular combinations of race, class, and gender provide. Third, I hope that this newfound understanding will motivate students to work for change and make society a better place for all of us.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Distinguish between the popular and sociological conceptions of race, class, and gender.
2. Explain the ways in which race, gender, and class shape social institutions.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the theories of inequality.
4. Illustrate the ways in which race, class, and gender intersect to create unique and varying degrees of privilege and inequality.

CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

The format will be lecture/discussion with the addition of a number of films and in-class projects. The instructor of this course makes several assumptions about the students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

1. Attend class on a regular basis.
2. Be prepared for class (i.e., have a writing instrument and paper or a computer in your possession; have read the assigned materials prior to class).
3. Participate in class. Students are expected to actively participate and will be assigned a grade for participation. If something is covered in lecture or in the text which you do not understand, ASK A QUESTION (chances are at least one or more of your colleagues will have the same or similar question). You will be held responsible for the assigned materials on the examinations, so it is in your best interest to ask questions.
4. Be present and prepared for all examinations. The term "prepared" in this context means not only having studied the materials you are to be tested on and showing up at the appropriate time, but also having a BLUE BOOK, and/or a SCANTRON and a Blue or Black Pen and a pencil in your possession on the day of exam.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Paula S. Rothenberg, Race, Class, and Gender in the United States, 8th edition, Worth Publishers, New York, 2010.

Suggested Course Materials

No additional materials

Assignments & Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

Week 1 1/11-1/15	Overview of the Course Introduction : The Social Construction of Difference Rothenberg (R): Part I—Introduction, Readings 1-6
Week 2 1/18-1/22	Social Construction of Difference (continued) R: Part I-Readings 7-11 NO CLASS: MONDAY, JANUARY 18th
Week 3 1/25-1/29	Understanding Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism and Class Privilege R: Part II
Week 4 2/1-2/5	Discrimination in Everyday Life R: Part IV-Introduction, Readings 1-11
Week 5 2/8-2/12	Discrimination in Everyday Life (continued) R: Part IV—Readings 12-23
Week 6 2/15-2/19	EXAM I ESSAYS DUE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15th at 10:30AM TERMS: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th
Week 7 2/22-2/26	The Economics of Race, Class, And Gender R: Part V—Introduction, Readings 1-9
Week 8 3/1-3/5	The Economics of Race, Class, And Gender (continued) R: Part V—Readings 10-18 MIDTERM GRADES DUE: FRIDAY, MARCH 5th
Week 9 3/8-3/12	Many Voices, Many Lives: Some Consequences of Race, Class and Gender Inequality R: Part VI—Introduction, Readings 1-13 PROJECT ONE—IDENTITY PAPER DUE—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th at 10:30AM
Week 10 3/15-3/19	SPRING BREAK

Week 11 3/22-3/26	Many Voices, Many Lives: Some Consequences of Race, Class and Gender Inequality (continued) R: Part VI—Readings 14-27
Week 12 3/29-4/2	EXAM II ESSAYS DUE: MONDAY, MARCH 29th at 10:30AM TERMS: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st
Week 13 4/5-4/9	How It Happened: Race and Gender Issues in U.S. Law R: Part VII
Week 14 4/12-4/16	Maintaining Race, Class, and Gender Hierarchies: Reproducing “Reality” R: Part VIII
Week 15 4/19-4/23	Social Change: Revisioning the Future and Making a Difference R: Part IX—Introduction and Readings 1-4
Week 16 4/26-4/30	Social Change: Revisioning the Future and Making a Difference (continued) R: Part IX—Readings 5-9
Week 17 5/3	EXAM III ESSAYS DUE: MONDAY, MAY 3rd at 10:30AM TERMS: MONDAY, MAY 3rd

This schedule is tentative and will be modified as necessitated by class discussions and outside speakers.

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Please refer to the UTD syllabus website for more information concerning specific UTD policies and regulations for this course.

Grading Policy

(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)

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Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

Three Exams Each worth 200 points	600 points
Project One—Identity Paper	300 points
Participation	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL POSSIBLE	1000 points

1. There will be three examinations for the class, the first, the week of **February 15th**, the second the week of **March 29th** and the third, on **May 3rd**. Each exam will count 20% for a total of 60% of the final grade.

Exams will consist of short answer, essays and writing assignments unless otherwise instructed. They will cover only the material since the last exam (i.e. non-comprehensive).

Exam material will come from the lecture and assigned readings. Any handout materials supplied by the instructor may also appear on that section's exam.

The supplemental instructor will provide a review session prior to the exams.

2. Research Projects: There will be ONE paper required. The paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. More information will be forthcoming on the papers

3. Participation: Class participation will be worth 10% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly, come prepared, and participate in class discussions.

Course & Instructor Policies

(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not taking an exam or completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an Incomplete grade in the course. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive a "0" for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR QUIZES.** Students requesting Incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author's work or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Undergraduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code.

Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of "0" (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD

furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.