



School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences – Department of Sociology

SOC 3325.0W1 Race and Ethnicity – Online

Spring 2021

Course Description (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines ethnic, racial, and other minority groups from both a historical and contemporary social perspective. It reviews theories concerning prejudice and discrimination, patterns of minority relations, and future relationship patterns in the United States.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the origins of racial and ethnic strife
- Interpret statistical data concerning the racial and ethnic composition of the U.S.
- Apply major theoretical sociological positions to issues surrounding race and ethnicity

Office Hours

Virtual Office hours will be available as this course is delivered completely online. We can Face Time or Skype if you feel your questions need to be addressed outside of email, text messages, or a phone call.

Textbook

1. Desmond, M. and M. Emirbayer. (2010). *Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America*. McGraw Hill. New York, NY. ISBN: 9780072970517
2. Diangelo, Robin. (2018). *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Beacon Press: Boston. ISBN: 978-0807047415

* In addition to the textbook, the instructor will periodically post web links, journal articles and other required reading assignments to the course Blackboard site. These readings will be announced in class but hard copies will not be supplied.

Course Focus

This course examines the social stratification of racial and ethnic groups that comprise the United States population. Discrepancies in income, occupation, education, political power, and other areas of American society will be explored. Degrees of discrimination and prejudice experienced by different racial and ethnic groups, along with degrees of integration into social institutions will also be examined. The debate concerning assimilation and multiculturalism fueled by the growing diversity of American society will be a major point of focus. Both current and historical racial and ethnic issues will be discussed. The fluid nature of race must be taken into account as the racial makeup of the U.S. is being constantly altered.

Much of the course material and assignments will ask you to draw on your own experiences. In this way, you can make better sense of how and why you occupy a certain social location in our country. Furthermore, you will be able to critically analyze and compare your situation to others around you. In this way, you will attempt to comprehend the overarching social forces that underlie the majority of the outcomes you experience during the life course.

Attendance

Attendance will only be taken the first two weeks of the course in accordance with UTD institutional policy. Your attendance will be tracked by completion of assignments since this is an online course. Remember to check Blackboard for updates or ask a fellow student about lecture content, assignments, and other relevant information.

Grading Policy

- **Exams → 3 Total: 15% each (45%)**
- **Quizzes → 4 Total: 5% each (20%)**
- **Journal Entries → 7 total: 2.14% each (15%)**
- **Writing Assignments → 3 Total: 3.33% each (10%)**
- **White Fragility Analysis → 10%**

Exams

There will be a total of 3 exams (including the final) throughout the semester. Each exam will comprise 15% of your final grade. Exams will consist of approximately 23 multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions along with 6 short answer questions. You will be given an entire class session (1 hour and 15 minutes) to complete each exam.

Quizzes

A total of 4 quizzes will be given during this course. Each quiz will consist of 8-9 multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions. Additionally, 1 short answer question is likely to appear on each quiz. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings and understanding the content. Quizzes will account for 20% of your total grade.

Journal Entries

The journal entries are designed to ensure that you are able to understand and apply the content that is being disseminated. A set of questions surrounding a topic will be asked. Responses on Blackboard should be approximately 2 paragraphs. The length is not as important as the content. The journal entry topics may ask that you draw on your own experience in order to make sense of the concepts in question. Or, you may be asked to read an article or news link and respond to it by using themes from the course.

Writing Assignments

You will be assigned 3 short (1 and ½ - 2 pages) writing assignments at various points during the course. The prompts for these assignments will be given in class as well as posted on Blackboard. All writing assignments should be posted to the appropriate Blackboard location. Late submissions will be deducted 10 points per day after the original due date. The writing portion of your grade will be worth 10% of the total.

White Fragility Analysis

Each student will be required to complete a project that deals with the Robin Diangelo's book, *White Fragility*. Using any 3 chapters from the book, summarize and apply conflict theory to the information therein. There is no specific length requirement for the summaries, but make sure you are addressing the important points as you see them. Additionally, there are numerous ways of presenting this information. You can type a traditional Word or PDF document. Or, you can create a Power Point, video blog, or other type of media presentation. We will discuss this project in greater detail a few weeks into the course. This assignment is worth 10% of the total grade.

Grading Scale

A+ = 95 – 100

A = 90 - 94

B+ = 85 – 89

B- = 80 – 84

C+ = 75 - 79

C = 70 – 74

D = 69 and below

*The following website has full grading information:

<http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic>

Instructor Availability

- The best way of contacting me is through e-mail. I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible. However, e-mails sent later than 8 pm will likely not be answered until the following day. Please include your course title and section in the “Subject” line of all emails.
- If the listed office hours do not accommodate your schedule, I will be more than happy to set up an alternative virtual meeting time if necessary.
- You can send text messages to my personal number ***ONLY IN EMERGENCIES***. On an exam days if you have an unexpected conflict (ex. sickness) then texts are an appropriate means of contact.

Special Accommodations

Students require special accommodations or learning disabilities should contact a specialist at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can reach them by phone at 972-883-2098 or in person in SSB 3.200. Additional information can be found online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/>. You can also email any questions you have to studentaccess@utdallas.edu. Please inform the instructor of these accommodations as soon as possible so arrangements can be put in place.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. If you get kicked out of a quiz or exam, **DON'T FREAK OUT!** You will not lose points if the quiz or exam cannot be reset before the due date. As long as you send an email and an explanation of what occurred, the issue will get sorted out. These issues can largely be avoided if you refrain from waiting until the last possible minute to complete assignments.

Late Work Policy

For all exam, quizzes, and assignments, a full letter grade will be deducted from your score for each day your submission is late. After the 3rd day, the highest score you can receive is 50% of the original point total for that assignment. Exceptions will only be made if a documented medical note can be provided from a licensed health care professional.

Online Classroom Etiquette

- Sociology is a discipline that explores a host of controversial topics which can elicit powerful emotions. As college students striving to enter the professional world, it is important to respect the opinions of others at all times. This does not mean that you must agree with every assertion. In fact, disagreement tends to breed the best discussions and potential thought provocation among classmates. However, please refrain from using derogatory or disparaging speech when involved in virtual classroom discussions with the instructor or other students.
- At times, people will be more likely to speak up when utilizing an online format. This can be positive and negative. Everyone can get a word in edgewise here. However, we still must imagine that we are speaking to the person face-to-face. Everyone's opinion should be respected and used as a platform for better understanding our differences, why they arise, and from what source.

Academic Dishonesty

All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. All material found during research must be correctly documented to avoid plagiarism. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. Violations may result in disciplinary action that will be administered based on the nature and degree of the infringement. Repeated acts of academic dishonesty may have more severe institutional ramifications.

Weekly Schedule

Date

Week of 1-13

Week of 1-20

Week of 1-27

Week of 2-3

Week of 2-10

Week of 2-17

Week of 2-24

Week of 3-2

Week of 3-19

Week of 3-16

Week of 3-23

Week of 3-30

Week of 4-6

Week of 4-13

Week of 4-20

Week of 4-27

Chapter and Topic

Chapter 1: Race in the 21st Century

Chapter 2: The Invention of Race

Chapter 3: Politics

Chapter 4: Economics

Exam 1

Chapter 5: Housing

Chapter 6: Crime and Punishment

Chapter 7: Education

Chapter 8: Aesthetics

Spring Break

Exam 2

Chapter 9: Associations

Chapter 10: Intimate Life

Chapter 11: Toward Racial Justice

White Like Me

Final Exam

* All material and dates of exams listed on this syllabus are preliminary and subject to change as the semester progresses.

* Be sure to fill out end of course evaluations that can be found online. This will be discussed in greater length toward the end of the semester.