

Race & Minority Group Relations Florida State University

SYD 4700 – Fall 2007
Mon & Wed 11:00am–12:15pm
Location: HCB 0214
TA: Jennifer Caputo (JLC07e@fsu.edu)
TA Office: 504 Bellamy Bldg.

Professor Daniel Tope
Office: 429 Bellamy Bldg.
E-mail: dtope@fsu.edu
Phone: 644-6416/644-2135
Office Hrs: M 2-4, Tues 10-12

Course Description:

The United States of America has come a long way from the homogeneous “home away from home” envisioned by its “founding fathers.” From our nation’s very beginnings, racial and ethnic diversity have played and continue to play important roles in American culture and politics. This course is designed to familiarize the student with the sociological concepts of race and ethnicity within the context of minority and majority group relations, and teach the student to recognize and assess their historical and present role in American society.

We will begin by looking at the meanings of the concepts of race and ethnicity, as well as various approaches to understanding them. The course will also be comparative and historical in focus, examining the history and social structure of the European, Native, African, Latino/Hispanic and Asian communities that comprise the American nation and discussing key social issues pertinent to each group. Here, two themes are particularly important: (1) the search for continuities as well as differences, and (2) the relative importance of social structural as opposed to cultural factors in affecting group outcomes.

Required Reading: (to be purchased and read by all students)

Feagin, Joe R. and Clairece B. Feagin. 2003. *Racial and Ethnic Relations*. 7th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Other Readings: Supplemental required readings are posted on the course Blackboard site. These readings require Adobe reader, which is a free download: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Recommended Readings: (For those who are particularly interested in race & ethnicity)

1. M. Jacobson. *Whiteness of a Different Color*
2. Omi & Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States*.
3. J. Gonzalez. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*.
4. E. Cose. *The Rage of a Privileged Class*.
5. E. Bonilla-Silva. *White Supremacy and Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*.
6. Massey & Denton. *American Apartheid*.
7. R. Takaki. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*.
8. N. Ignatiev. *How the Irish Became White*.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain a familiarity with contemporary sociological research on race and ethnicity. In addition, students will build knowledge of different groups that make up the American racial and ethnic mosaic. Students will develop a set of skills that will enable them to evaluate, as well as compare and contrast research on and arguments about the origins and differential status of racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. These objectives will be assessed through in-class examinations, discussions, as well as an in-depth research project and group presentation to be completed at the end of the semester.

Basic Requirements and Evaluation:

Lectures and lecture-directed discussions will be supplemented by relevant media (i.e., films). Emphasis will be placed on careful reading, analysis and discussion of course materials.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- a. Exam 1. 100 points (20% of total grade)
- b. Exam 2. 100 points (20%)
- c. Comprehensive Final Exam. 100 points (20%)
- d. Paper & Presentation. 200 points (40%)

Grading Scale:

A 93-100%; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79;
C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 60-66; F <60

A Note on Class Attendance:

I will take attendance during each class period. If you arrive after I have taken attendance, you will be counted as absent. Information covered in lecture *often* will not be found in your readings. Thus, it is to your benefit to attend class regularly and arrive on time. I cannot rule out the possibility of pop quizzes that you will miss *and not be allowed to make up* if you are not in class. While I will not penalize you for absences, you remain responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es).

Contacting Me:

The quickest way to contact me is through email at dtope@fsu.edu. Email is an efficient way to ask simple questions and to arrange meetings outside of office hours. Feel free to come to my office hours on Monday (2:00-4:00) or Tuesday (10:00-12:00). If these times conflict with your schedule, I am more than willing to arrange another time during which to meet. You may come to ask questions or to just discuss issues. I will also be briefly available to you before and after our class meetings. I try to be in the classroom several minutes before class, and will have a few minutes to talk after class as well. I also encourage you to contact the teaching assistant, Jennifer Caputo, at JLC07e@fsu.edu.

General Course Guidelines:

1. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to keep up and be prepared for each class meeting. If you are having difficulty with a concept, or with reading comprehension, I am available for consultation during office hours, or by appointment. However, I **strongly** encourage you to form study groups for this purpose. You may also contact the Teaching Assistant with questions.
2. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to attend class regularly and on time or, if you cannot be here, to find out what was covered in lecture and obtain notes from another student, not the instructor. Again, I **strongly** encourage you to form study groups for this purpose. If attendance is sparse or students do not appear to have read the material, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes.
3. Exam dates are firm. If you miss an exam, you can make it up *only* if you contact me before the time of the exam *and* have a legitimate excuse (a serious medical illness for example) supported by written documentation. Rescheduled exams will be given only to those students presenting a valid, "university approved" excuse. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to reschedule missed exams in a timely fashion. As a rule, exams should be rescheduled within no more than 48 hours of your return to classes and must be taken within a week.
4. While I am willing to consult with you about an exam you have taken, I absolutely will not look at any exam more than one week after it has been returned.
5. All assignments must be submitted on the due dates. Late assignments will face a penalty of minus 10 points each day they are late. It is unlikely that I will offer extra credit. But, in the event that I do provide such an opportunity, late extra credit work will not be accepted for any reason.
6. PARTICIPATION: Since class time will be devoted to discussions regarding the issues addressed in the readings and or relevant current events, it is important that students have completed the reading. Obviously, informed participation necessitates that the students have read the material. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate in class discussions. I will be presenting viewpoints supported by sociological research – not merely my opinions. All viewpoints are welcome but keep in mind that the focus of the course is sociology and discussions should be framed with a sociological perspective in mind. Please be aware that agreeing with the instructor's or others' viewpoint is not a requirement for this course. You, however, must be familiar with the arguments presented in class to perform adequately on exams and other assignments. Also note that personal attacks or belittling of others will not be tolerated. Anyone who violates these guidelines may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

7. **DISTRACTIONS:** Please refrain from behavior that distracts other students. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to reading materials unrelated to this course, talking on a cell phone, text messaging, allowing your cell phone to ring, talking while the instructor is lecturing, and so forth. You may be asked to leave class if you choose to engage in activities that are distracting to other students whether or not that behavior has been listed here.

8. **SCHOLASTIC HONESTY:** The integrity of the University is dependent on scholastic honesty. Therefore, scholastic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. For example, anyone observed engaging in activities such as looking at another student's exam or looking at notes during an exam will receive a zero on that exam and/or a more serious University sanction. I expect you to do your own work. Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook, and available online at: <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf>

The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor's discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way will be reported to the University Judicial Office.

9. The course schedule may change depending on how the course proceeds. Some topics may take more time and others may take less. If time allows, I may introduce additional films or other relevant media. If any changes are necessary, they will be announced in class. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out about such announcements.

10. Check your official FSU email account and the course Black Board page regularly. *I will not send email messages to accounts that are not official FSU email accounts.*

11. **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** Students will be allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must inform me *in advance* of missing a class for the observance of a religious holiday.

12. **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center, 108 Student Services Building
97 Woodward Ave, South
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4400, (850) 644-9566 (voice),
(850) 644-8504 (TDD), SDRC@admin.fsu.edu,
<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

****This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.**

Student Colleagues:

Name: _____ email: _____

Name: _____ email: _____

Race & Minority Group Relations (Fall 2007)

Date	Textbook Readings	Other Assignments
<u>Section 1: Terms, Concepts, Theories</u>		
Aug. 27th	None	
Aug. 29th	F&F pp.1-21	S. T. Haizlip (BB)
Sept. 3rd	<i>Labor Day - no Class</i>	Kahn (BB)
Sept. 5th	F&F pp.22-33	
Sept. 10th	F&F pp.34-48	Peggy McIntosh (BB)
Sept. 12th	F&F pp.49-58	
<u>Section 2: European Americans</u>		
Sept. 17th	F&F pp.59-76	
Sept. 19th	F&F pp.77-89	
Sept. 24th	F&F pp.90-105	Brodkin Sacks (BB)
<u>Section 3: Native Americans</u>		
Sept. 26th	F&F pp.106-129	
Oct. 1st	F&F pp.130-141	
Oct. 3rd	F&F pp. 142-158	Abstracts Due Today
Oct. 8th	None	<i>Catch up & Review</i>
Oct. 10th	None	Exam 1
<u>Section 4: African Americans</u>		
Oct. 15th	F&F pp.159-178	
Oct. 17th	F&F pp.179-195	
Oct. 22nd	None	
Oct. 24th	F&F pp.196-214	
<u>Section 5: Hispanic/Latino Americans</u>		
Oct. 29th	F&F pp.215-231	Outline Due Today
Oct. 31st	F&F pp.232-246	
Nov. 5th	F&F pp.247-264	In-Class committee Meetings
<u>Section 6: Asian Americans</u>		
Nov. 7th	F&F pp.265-287	<i>Catch up & Review</i>
Nov. 12th	<i>Veteran's Day - No Class</i>	
Nov. 14th	F&F pp.289-322	Subcommittee Reports Due
Nov. 19th	None	Exam 2
Nov. 21st	None	In-Class committee Meetings
<u>Section 7: Other Groups & The Future of Race Relations</u>		
Nov. 26th	F&F pp. 323-339	Papers Due Today
Nov. 28th	F&F pp.340-354	Presentations
Dec. 3rd	None	Presentations
Dec. 5th	None	<i>Review for Final</i>
Dec 10th	None	Final Exam Tues. 5:30-7:30

*BB = Reading located on FSU BlackBoard site.

**This schedule is tentative and will be altered as needed.

Note: Aug. 30th is the last day for add/drop