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SE'00

Sociology 401: Race & Ethnic Relations

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Spring 2000
S 0800-1210
Camp Smith

Bry

Course Content:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a foundation of knowledge that enables them to better understand and critically assess contemporary race and ethnic relations. There will be a review of various theories of racial conflict, and an examination of why certain racial groups interacting with European immigrants have succeeded while others have failed. The course will also attempt to sketch out a number of ethno-racial systems operating in American society, attention given to institutional and interpersonal dynamics. Also to be included is a consideration of the future of race relations in America. Discussion of current related issues and topics will often serve as a platform for understanding the materials. Emphasis of reflections are placed on the national level as well as locally-based perspectives on the state of Hawaii.

Text: Harry H.L. Kitano, *Race Relations*, 5th ed. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1997.

Additional required reading material will be handed out throughout the term.

Course Requirements:

- Three reaction papers (3 pages minimum). These papers will revolve around the reading materials, lectures, discussions, videos, etc. The specific topic will be given to the students the week prior to its due date. Students will also be asked to talk about and participate in discussions of their papers; this will count into the participation grade.
- One group project. Each member will be responsible for producing a minimum of 5 written pages in contribution to the group's effort (citation of at least 3 sources besides the text and reading materials is required per person). A 2-3 paragraph summary of each group's topic is due by April 29th, with the instructor's recommendations for revisions given the week thereafter. Included in the initial summary should be each individual member's specified area of research and discussion. The group will present their topic to the class on June 3rd (and June 10th if necessary). The range of topics is broad and will be basically be left up to the group; however, the topic must be approved by the instructor and applied sociologically. Outside library research in procuring sources is expected for the project.
- One oral presentation on a section of the readings or a specific handout. Presentation dates will be assigned at the beginning of the term, and the reading materials (either text or handout) will be negotiated with the student as his/her presentation date nears (usually the week prior; however, for those students who desire more leeway in terms of preparation, arrangements can be made earlier). Below is an outline of presentation guidelines.

Instructions for individual oral presentations:

Copy your outline for everyone in the class. Think of your outline as a review of the material you are asked to cover as if you were going to use it as a study guide for an exam. Include in your discussion: major points, unfamiliar terms & definitions, significant studies & results, noteworthy figures (statistics). **Do not read your outline verbatim, a concise and engaging summative format is sought.**

- Two midterm examinations. These exams will be non-cumulative (i.e., covering only the materials covered in a specific section).
- One final examination. This exam will be cumulative and will include only subject material covered during the course of the class.
- Regular class attendance and classroom participation- each absence counts against course/grade performance. If a student misses two classes throughout the term, a deficiency notice will be sent to the registrar's office. More than two absences will result in one of two consequences: failure or, for those with extenuating circumstances, an incomplete (to be made up no later than June 30th).

Grading System:

The class will be graded on a curve, based on the highest score received on each paper, exam, and presentation. For this curve, a standardized grading system will be used:

- A** = 92-100% (of highest point total received)
- B** = 83-91%
- C** = 74-82%
- D** = 65-73%
- F** = 64% and below

Point distribution:

- 30%** Midterm Exams (*15% each*)
- 20%** Individual project (individual paper & group presentation)
(*15%- individual paper / 5%- group presentation*)
- 15%** Three short papers
- 15%** Final examination
- 10%** Individual Chapter/Handout presentation
- 10%** Classroom participation/attendance

Course Schedule:

Week: Date	General Topic	Have Read for Week
1: April 8	Introduction to the course	
2: April 15	“Race” & “Ethnicity” American Culture? Inequality	Text: Chapters 1-3
3: April 22	Theoretical Frameworks Discrimination	Text: Chapters 4-5
DUE: Paper #1		
4: April 29	Discrimination (continued) Identity MIDTERM #1	Text: Chapters 6-7
DUE: Group Topic Summary		
5: May 6	Ethnic & Racial Groups in contemporary U.S. Crime & Hate Crimes	Text: Chapters 8-9
6: May 13	E & R Groups in U.S. (continued) Education & Intelligence	Text: Chapters 10-11
DUE: Paper#2		
7: May 20	E & R Groups in U.S. (continued) Poverty MIDTERM #2	Text: Chapters 12-13
8: May 27	E & R Groups in U.S. (continued) Popular Culture & Media representations	Text: Chapters 14-15
DUE: Paper #3		
9: June 3	Group Presentations Review for Final Class Evaluations (Hawaii issues)	Text: Chapters 16-17
DUE: Group Project		
10: June 10	FINAL EXAMINATION Course Wrap-Up	