

**SO 401: Race and Ethnicity
Fall, 2001**

**Dr. Jim Christiana, SM
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I have structured this course to provide an overview of some of the major issues and controversies in the classical and modern literature on RACE.

We will then look at the structure and process of ethnicity, ethnic relations, prejudice, and minority-majority relations (focusing upon cross cultural systems of stratification and domination throughout history). Special attention will be placed on attempts to explain human variations (such as intelligence; economic situations; or physical/athletic skills) by appealing to the factor of race.

TEXTS:

Much of the reading for this course will be placed on library reserve. Students are encouraged to xerox copies of these readings for their own personal use. There is also one book for this course which is available in the bookstore:

R. Takaki, *From Different Shores* (second edition)

ORGANIZATION AND GRADES:

This course will attempt to interweave lectures and group discussions **in an atmosphere of mutual respect.**

Regular class attendance is substantially important to your success in this course. Students who accumulate more than three (unexcused) absences will begin to have their overall grade lowered in a manner which is completely up to the discretion of the instructor.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

--five-to-six exams (various formats) of approximately equal weight, with the last exam taking place during finals week.

It is expected that students be present on the days that exams are administered. Students are never automatically entitled to makeup exams. Makeup exams will usually provide students with greater intellectual challenges; and are constructed in a manner which is totally up to the discretion of the instructor, with whatever grade penalties the instructor determines. Students are responsible for all class materials, announcements, and assignments even if they are not present.

I invite students to make an appointment to see me during the semester. I do not enjoy teaching a class of strangers.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS
I--III	Overview of course and syllabus Questions and reflections on Race READ: articles on reserve {Omi and Winant, <i>Racial Formations</i> Cuvier, <i>The race from which we are descended</i> Lopez, <i>The Social Construction of Race</i> Spickard, <i>Pacific Islander Americans</i> lifestyle article on Tiger Woods}
IV--V	Ongoing discussion of Race and Ethnicity READ: Takaki, any 3 of these: (Section II: CULTURE): articles by Jordan; Takaki; Higham; Deloria. READ: 1 article on reserve { <i>Approaches to the Study of Human Variation</i> }
VI--VII	Dynamics of Majority--Minority Relations READ: Takaki (Section II: CULTURE): article by Light. READ: Takaki any TWO chapters in Section III (CLASS) by Breen; Rodriguez; Vizenor; or Almaguer
VII--VIII	Social Stratification and the American Dream
IX--X	Affirmative Action, Public Policy and Ethics READ: TBA from Takaki, (Section V)
XI--remainder of semester	Topics such as: Genocide and Global Diaspora Race and Athletics Race and Gender Race and the Criminal Justice System Multiculturalism and US Institutions Issues in Immigration Citizenship Rights and Guest Workers Colonization

{According to the schedule of classes, the date of our last exam is: Monday, 10 December a 12:45}