

RACIAL AND ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES
Chicano/Latino Studies 148 * Sociology 167AW

Fall 2007

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Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Course Overview:

This writing course examines central questions and issues in the field of race and ethnicity in the United States. In particular, we will focus on the concepts of "race," and "ethnicity," as social constructions. We will also focus on the concept of "assimilation," which is central to American understandings of racial and ethnic relations. We will look at assimilation, race and ethnicity in relation to the experiences of multiple groups, including White Europeans, Asians, and Blacks, but will particularly emphasize how these concepts apply to Latinos in the United States.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course, I hope that you will:

- 1) Have a solid understanding of some of the major issues and concepts concerning racial and ethnic relations in the United States
- 2) Have improved and developed your skills in thinking and reading critically, as well as expressing your thoughts verbally and in writing.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and participation: It is absolutely imperative that students attend every class and come prepared to discuss the readings for that day. (15%)

2) Writing Journal: Utilize your writing journals for reading assignments. For each day's assigned readings: (1) provide a summary in your own words of at least two key concepts or arguments posed by the authors. (2) Write down at least one question for each day's readings to contribute to class discussion.

I will randomly collect and evaluate your journal 3 times during the quarter (each evaluation will be worth 5 pts). (15%)

Instructions and Guidelines will be reviewed in class for the following assignments. The goal for each writing assignment is that each will build upon each other to form the foundation for your final research paper.

3) Research Paper Proposal: (10%)

4) Draft 1 of Research Paper: (15%)

5) Peer Editing: (10%)

6) Final Research Paper: (35%)

NOTE: LATE PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR GRADED.

Respect: Some of the issues we are going to discuss in this course are sensitive topics that may evoke emotional feelings in us because they relate to our own identities and experiences. I view this course as a safe environment where students can express their views and openly debate these issues. However, mutual respect for each other's differences is key to productive discussion. Please be respectful of others. I look forward to a rewarding quarter.

Required Texts:

Waters, Mary. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*

Davis, James. *Who is Black? One Nation's Definition*

Rodriguez, Clara. *Changing Race: Latinos, the census, and the history of ethnicity in the United States*

Harvey, Michael. *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing*.

Course Reader: available for purchase during class the first week of class. Readings from the course reader are marked with an *.

Week 1:

Tuesday: First day of class: no readings

Thursday: **Basic Concepts: Race and Ethnicity**

* Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 1998. "Mapping the Terrain: Definitions" Chapter 2 in *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World* pp.15-38

Week 2:

Tuesday: Overview: The U.S. Racial Structure and the Social Construction of Race

Rodriguez, Chapter 1 "Latinos in the U.S. Race Structure"

Davis, Chapter 1 "The Nation's Rule"

Rodriguez, Chapter 2, "The Idea of Race"

Davis, Chapter 2, "Miscegenation and Beliefs"

Thursday: Film: *Understanding Race* (Discovery Channel, 2004)

Week 3:

Tuesday: Assimilation and European Ethnics

* Gordon, Milton. Chapter 3. "The Nature of Assimilation," in *Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion, and National Origins*

Waters, Chapter 1, "Introduction"

Waters, Chapter 2, "Flux and Choice in American Ethnicity" (16-51)

(Skim Chapters 3-6)

Thursday: Library Workshop/Using Sources

Harvey, *Using Sources*

Workshop with Christina Woo, Librarian

Week 4:

Tuesday: Ethnic Options? Europeans vs. Latinos

Waters, Chapter 7, "The Costs of a Costless Community" (147-168)

Rodriguez, Chapter 3, "Stories of Self-Definition"

Harvey, Paragraphs

DUE: Research Paper Proposal and preliminary sources

Thursday: Historical Constructions: Race and the U.S. Census

Rodriguez, Chapter 5, "The Shifting Color Line" (pp 87-105)
Rodriguez, Chapter 7, "The 'Other Race' Option" (pp 129-152)
Harvey, Punctuation

Week 5:

Tuesday: Historical Constructions: Racial Boundaries for Blacks

Davis, Chapter 3, "Conflicting Rules" (pp 31-50)
Davis, Chapter 4, "The Rule Becomes Firm" (pp 51-80)
Harvey, Clarity

Thursday: Historical Constructions: Racial Boundaries for Blacks, continued

Davis, Chapter 6, "Black Acceptance of the Rule" (pp 123-139)
Davis, Chapter 7, "Ambiguities, Strains, Conflicts, and Traumas" (pp 141-169)
Harvey, Concision

Week 6:

Tuesday: Comparative Perspectives

Rodriguez, Chapter 6, "Race in the Americas" (pp 106-125)
Davis, Chapter 5, "Other Places, Other Definitions" (pp 81-122)

Thursday: **FILM:** *Race: the Power of an Illusion, Part 3: The House We Live In*

DUE: 1st Draft, Research Paper

Week 7:

Tuesday: writing workshop

DUE: Peer Edit #1

Thursday: The Assimilation of Contemporary Immigrant Groups