

Northeastern Illinois University
FALL 2008
Sociology 316
Race and Ethnic Relations

Instructor: Diana Almanza

Friday 6:10 – 8:50 pm

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Classroom: El Centro Rm 126

Office Hours: Friday 5 pm & by appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to race and ethnic relations. The objectives of the course are:

1. To understand the basic questions addressed in the study of race and ethnic relations.
2. To understand race as a social construct with various modes of thought, concerns and methodologies.
3. To understand the basic characteristics of ethnic groups and that ethnicity is a variable whose strength and importance will differ in different social contexts.
4. To consider the value of comparing the U.S. with other societies as a way of better understanding race and ethnic relations in order to strengthen your understanding of other cultures.
5. To understand the ideology of racism
6. To understand the historical process of racism and its function in modern societies.
7. To promote critical and analytical thinking about issues regarding race, ethnicity and other areas with an emphasis on everyday life and experiences.
8. To think “Outside the Box”.
9. To connect the material to your personal and professional life.

Required Texts and Readings:

Rethinking the Color Line Readings in Race and Ethnicity by Charles A. Gallagher 3rd Edition

American Ethnicity the Dynamics and Consequences of Discrimination by Adalberto Acuirre, Jr. and Johnathan H. Turner

Chapters from books listed below will be posted to blackboard and/or emailed to students

Race Class and Gender in the United States by Paula S. Rothernberg 7th Edition

White Racisim by Joe Feagan, Henán Vera and Pinar Batur 2nd Edition

Presumed Alliance, the Unspoken Conflict between Latinos and Blacks and What it Means for America by Nicolás C. Vaca

Other resources:

I strongly encourage you to read local and national newspapers. Every class period will begin with a discussion of a current situation relating to race and ethnic relations.

Policies and Schedules:

Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation	10 points
Reflection Paper	15 points
Midterm	15 points
Field Research Project	30 points
Final Exam	30 points
Total	100 points

Grade Scale 90 or above A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

59 and below F

EXTRA CREDIT for VOTING

Communication

Students are expected to communicate clearly and promptly with instructor and fellow students via e-mail, using appropriate subject headers, etiquette, sentence structure and self identification.

Attendance and Participation

Students are required to attend every scheduled class on time.

Given the amount of time we spend in the classroom and the amount of material covered, attendance is critical.

Students are expected to read assigned material before class and be prepared to discuss in class.

Class period will be discussion and all students are required to participate.

Students are expected to be respectful of their fellow classmates and instructor.

If it seems that students are not keeping up with the readings the instructor will give quizzes on the assigned reading material.

Reflection Paper

Students will write one 2-3 page reflection paper on an assigned topic related to Race and Ethnicity

Field Research Project

Students will present a group research project based on media and its relation to race and ethnicity. You will receive an outline guide and we will spend some class room time working on the project.

Late projects will be deducted 10 points for every week late.

VOTING

Students must bring voter receipt to class the day after you vote. I will not accept late receipts. Be sure your name is written on the back.

Exams, Papers and Group Project

No Make ups, No Excuses

Accommodations for Persons with disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact me immediately. This will help me make the necessary adjustments to meet your special needs. For additional information please contact Northeastern Illinois University's Accessibility Office at 773-442-5495

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating on writing or class assignments will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in failure of the class and/or administrative action. Please, consult the NEIU Academic Catalogue for further information

Syllabus is Subject To Change

Course Schedule:

Week 1 August 23, 2008

Introductions

American Ethnicity "Ethnicity and Ethnic Relations" Chapter 1 pgs 1-29

Rethinking the Color Line "Race and Ethnicity: Sociohistoric Construction
Chapters 1 - 3 pgs 7 - 27

Week 2 August 29, 2008

Race Class and Gender in the US

Part II "Understanding Racism..." Chapters 10 & 11 pgs 102 – 114

Rethinking the Color Line "Theoretical Perspectives in Race and Ethnic
Relations, Chapter 4 pgs. 29 – 43 and Placing Race in Context Chapter 9
pg 85 - 90

Week 3 September 5, 2008

Race Class and Gender in the US

Part II Understanding Racism..." Chapters 1- 4 pgs 123 – 143
and Chapters 8 White Privilege pgs 177 – 182

Rethinking the Color Line “Race Prejudice as a Sense of Group Position”
Chapter 9 pgs 169 – 175 and “Discrimination and the American Creed”
Chapter 17 pgs 176 - 184

- Week 4** **September 13, 2008**
Race Class and Gender in the US
Part IV “Discrimination in Everyday Life...” pgs 255 - 298 Chapters 1, 2,
4, 5, 10-17
White Racism
Chapter 2 “Racism in Practice, Case Studies” pgs 34 – 66
- Week 5** **September 19, 2008**
Race Class and Gender in the US
Part V “Economics of Race, Class...” Chapters 1 – 5 pgs 329 - 346 and
Chapters 15 & 16 pgs 386 – 395
Rethinking the Color Line “Contemporary Socioeconomic Trends”
Chapters 6-8 pgs 56 - 84
- Week 6** **September 26, 2008**
Race Class and Gender in the US
Part VI “Consequences of Race... Inequality” Chapters 1 - 12 pgs 403 -
451 and Chapter 14 pgs 455 - 457
Rethinking the Color Line Chapters 26 – 28 pgs 304 - 344
Recap 1st section of semester
Groups Discuss Field Research Project
- Week 7** **October 3, 2008**
NO CLASS Work on Field Research Projects
- Week 8** **October 10, 2008**
Field Research Project Topic Summary Due
Review for Midterm
Mid Term Exam
- Week 9** **October 17, 2008**
Rethinking the Color Line “Ideas of Race.....” Chapters 10 & 11 pgs 92 -
121 and “Sweatshops in Sunset Park” Chapter 33 pgs 379 – 396
American Ethnicity Chapters 6 Native Americans pgs 135 – 171 and
Chapter 8 Asian and Pacific Islanders pgs 210 – 253
Begin Research Project Presentations
- Week 10** **October 24, 2008**
American Ethnicity “Arab Americans” Chapter 9 pgs 254 -280
Rethinking the Color Line
“Pre-September 11, 2001.....”Chapter 18 pgs 185 – 196
Presumed Alliance.... “Latino Tsunami”

American Ethnicity Latinos Chapter 7 pgs 172 – 208
Research Project Presentations

Week 11 October 31, 2008

Race Class and Gender in the US

Part IV Chapter 7 pgs 277-279

“Hispanics...Poultry Industry” Chapter 34 pgs 398 – 414

Presumed Alliance..... Chapters 5 & 6 “Passed By and Shut Out” and

“When Blacks Rule” pgs 108 – 145

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Week 12 November 7, 2008

American Ethnicity Chapter 5 African Americans pgs 92 – 134

White Racism Chapter “Racism in Practice” pgs 34 -66 & 4”Racism &
Murder” pgs 89 - 116

Week 13 November 14, 2008

Race Class and Gender in the US

Part VIII Maintaining Race, Class.... Chapters 1, 3, 7, 8, 12 pgs 597 – 697

Rethinking the Color Line “Prejudice, Discrimination...” Chapters 19 - 25
pgs 201 - 295

Week 14 November 21, 2008

Rethinking the Color Line “Race, Representation Media” Chapters 35 –
39 pgs 415 - 465

Finish Field Research Projects

Week 15 November 28, 2008

HOLIDAY NO CLASS

Week 16 December 5, 2008

Race Class and Gender in the US

Part IX “Social Change...” Chapters all pgs 699 - 757

White Racism

Chapter 8 “Taking Action against Racism” pgs 218 – 253

Recap of Semester

Review for Final Exam

Hand out Final