

DRAFT SYLLABUS

SOC 214: Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)

Section 801; CRN: 92261

Online Course: 6/8/2015 to 8/14/2015 (10 weeks)

Instructor: Katharine Hannah, M.A. Sociology

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Course Overview:

Race and ethnicity are key constructs that organize and divide people, dictate the opportunities available to some people and not others, and shape the everyday experiences of each and every person in American society. Interested in investigating just how social constructs like race and ethnicity can have such power over peoples' lives? Join me in an introductory exploration into the power and complexity of race and ethnicity.

This online course will serve as an introduction to race and ethnicity in American society according to sociological perspectives. Over a 10-week period we will examine the historical constructions of race and ethnicity and investigate how they have evolved over time. With the help of a comprehensive textbook, additional reading material, video clips, and other electronic resources, students will investigate how sociologists think about race, ethnicity, discrimination, prejudice, and a number of other key concepts.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, each student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the various sociological perspectives on race and ethnicity.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how race and ethnicity are social constructions that change over time and across context.
- Be aware of racial/ethnic privilege and oppression in various institutions of American society, particularly health care, education, housing, and the judicial system.
- Be familiar with representations of race and ethnicity in mass media and popular culture and understand how those representations can be problematic.
- Be able to communicate these ideas effectively in written form.

Required Textbook:

Mona Scott. 2012. *THINK Race and Ethnicity*. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205773732

I will place a copy of the textbook on course reserve in the Sinclair Library. It is also available for purchase through the bookstore and Amazon.

PowerPoint presentations, additional readings, video clips, and other resources will be available via Lulima.

General Matters:

- All students must have a University of Hawaii email account and regular access to the Internet. Your grade will depend on timely submission of work. Please be sure to have a backup plan for Internet access in case of travel, problems with your current access, or problems with your computer. Problems with access or your computer are not excuses for not completing your work.
- For any problems with Lulima, you must contact Lulima immediately. This would include not being able to access the course site or being kicked out of the site. It is your responsibility to initiate contact with Lulima when you are having such issues. Please do let me know if you are having problems with Lulima so I can assist when possible.
- All due dates and times reflect Hawaii Standard Time.
- Contact me via email if you would like to meet in-person on campus or through teleconference (Ex. Facetime or Skype). I check email regularly and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

A Note About Online Courses:

The great thing about an online course is that it allows you to complete work at your own pace and in a setting of your choosing. Even so, active and frequent participation in this course is absolutely necessary! Keep up with the readings and assignments. It is your responsibility to plan ahead for due dates and submit work on time.

Grading:

Discussion Questions & Responses: 25%
 Reflection Papers: 3 @ 10% each = 30%
 Racial/Ethnic Autobiography: 15%
 Quizzes (4): 15%
 Final Exam: 15%

Grading Scale:

A = 95 – 100%	B- = 80 – 82%	D+ = 67 – 69%
A- = 90 – 94%	C+ = 76 – 79%	D = 64 – 66%
B+ = 86 – 89%	C = 73 – 75%	D- = 60 – 63%
B = 83 – 85%	C- = 70 – 72%	F = 59% and lower

Assignments:

I. Discussion Questions & Responses:

Develop a discussion question based on the week's readings and post this question each week on *Thursday by 11:59 PM* to the Lualima Discussion Board. Well-developed, clear, and concise questions that highlight the crucial elements of the readings will earn 2 points each. Less developed but attempted questions will earn 1 point. I will provide examples of well-developed questions in the first week of the course.

Respond to TWO of your peers' questions each week by *Sunday, 11:59 PM* in at least 250 words. Critically consider the discussion question and provide some insight to address it. An answer that fully addresses the question and demonstrates creative thought about the reading will earn 2 points maximum. Less developed responses that do not adequately address the question or do not meet the word count requirement will earn 1 point maximum.

- In total, there is the potential to earn 6 points each week for both the question and responses.
- Online discussions may touch on a number of sensitive topics. While students are encouraged to share their views and opinions, all ideas must be respected. Interruptions of or insults directed at other students will not be tolerated. If a certain topic is uncomfortable for you, I encourage you to email me about it or arrange a meeting so that we can discuss the issue and how to navigate your interactions with peers.
- *Late questions and responses will not be given credit.*

II. Reflection Papers:

Students will write 3 reflection papers, approximately 2-3 pages each. Papers should follow ASA formatting guidelines and be grammatically correct and free of spelling errors. These papers are designed to get students to think reflexively and critically about race and ethnicity in their own lives while integrating material learned from the course readings. You are required to cite at least one course chapter or article covered since the previous reflection paper in each of these short papers. I will provide detailed feedback on your papers to help you develop as a writer throughout the semester. I will also provide a rubric outlining grading criteria.

- *Papers will be submitted via Turnitin.com.*
- *10% of the possible grade will be deducted for each day past the due date that the paper is late.*

III. Racial & Ethnic Autobiography:

This assignment should be approximately 3 pages long. This paper should follow ASA formatting guidelines and be grammatically correct and free of spelling

errors. You are required to cite at least two course chapters or articles in your response.

In your autobiography, think critically about race and ethnicity in your own lives. Consider addressing some of these questions to develop your paper: When, why, and how did you first become aware of your race and/or ethnicity? How did the cultural environment in which you grew up influence your racial or ethnic identity? What does it mean to you (if anything) to identify with your racial and/or ethnic group(s)? Have you had any experiences with discrimination and/or racism? In what ways might you be privileged over those who identify with different racial or ethnic groups? What are some of the preferences (for food, music, activity, etc.) and values, attitudes, and rules shared by your family? What are some of the stereotypes associated with your racial or ethnic group? These are possible points to highlight in the paper, but feel free to investigate other (relevant) avenues as well.

- *This assignment will be submitted through Turnitin.com.*
- *10% of the possible grade will be deducted for each day past the due date that the paper is late.*

IV. Quizzes:

There will be 4 quizzes administered through Lulima. Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions and will cover material reviewed since the previous quiz. You will have one chance to take the quiz within a one-hour time frame.

- *There will be no make-ups or extensions on quizzes unless there is a documented, extenuating circumstance.*

V. Final Exam:

The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions, *due via Turnitin.com* on the last day of the course. The questions will be made available on Monday of the last week of class. Final exam submissions should be formatted according to ASA guidelines, grammatically correct, and free of spelling errors.

- *Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Please plan ahead accordingly.*

Kokua:

Any student in need of additional help, due to disability, can contact me personally and the KOKUA program officer to discuss ways to accommodate specific needs. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 or by email (kokua@hawaii.edu).

Plagiarism:

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a

documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student's language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and "dry-labbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results."

University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct

< <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm> >

Furthermore, It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake," are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.

A brief summary of the American Sociological Association's Style Guide, which explains the rules clearly, can be found at: www.buffalostate.edu/library/docs/asa.pdf

This course will utilize Turnitin.com to identify instances of plagiarism. Written assignments will be submitted online via turnitin. Written work that is severely plagiarized will not receive a grade and must be re-written.

Schedule:

***Note: reading schedule is subject to change**

Students should begin each week by completing the required readings and reviewing the associated PowerPoint presentation. PowerPoints may include references to additional (optional) readings and links to video clips and resources that reinforce key concepts.

Week 1: 6/8 - 6/14: Introduction to Race and Ethnicity

Reading: Scott, Chapter 1; Omi and Winant, "Racial Formation in the United States" (PDF in Laulima Resources folder)

**Instead of developing a discussion question this week, you will develop a short introduction post. Follow my example and post your introduction by Thursday, 6/11 11:59 PM. Respond to 2 of your peers' posts by Sunday, 6/14 11:59 PM. You might reflect on any similarities between you and your peers, identify interesting differences between yourself and your peers, discuss your favorite hiking trails or beaches, etc. The point of these responses is for us all to get to know one another as closely as possible in an online course by opening up and discussing our interests with others. The success of our online discussions will depend on your willingness to share your views with your peers. Next week, develop your first discussion question and then respond to two of your peers' questions within the designated time frame.

Week 2: 6/15 - 6/21: Social Inequality: Prejudice and Discrimination

Reading: Scott, Chapter 2; watch “Jose vs. Joe” video clip (link in Laulima Resources folder)

****Reminder:** First Discussion Question due Thursday, 6/18 by 11:59 PM. 2 responses due Sunday, 6/21 by 11:59 PM.

Reflection Paper 1 due 6/21 by 11:59 PM

Week 3: 6/22 - 6/28: Dominant Ideologies, Oppression, and Inequalities

Reading: Scott, Chapter 3; additional reading TBD

Quiz 1 due 6/28 by 11:59 PM

Week 4: 6/29 - 7/5: Privilege and White Supremacy

Reading: Scott, Chapter 4; McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” (PDF in Laulima Resources folder)

Reflection Paper 2 due 7/3 by 5:00 PM

Week 5: 7/6 - 7/12: Internalized Oppression

Reading: Scott, Chapter 5

Quiz 2 due 7/12 by 11:59 PM

Week 6: 7/13 - 7/19: Education and Residential Segregation

Reading: Scott, Chapter 6 and Scott, Chapter 8

Reflection Paper 3 due 7/19 by 11:59 PM

Week 7: 7/20 - 7/26: Health Inequality and Law

Reading: Scott, Chapter 10 and Scott, Chapter 11; watch “The New Jim Crow book trailer” (Link in Laulima Resources folder)

Quiz 3 due 7/26 by 11:59 PM

Week 8: 7/27 - 8/2: Media

Reading: Scott, Chapter 7; Watch “Racial Internet Literacy” video clip (Link in Laulima Resources folder)

Racial/Ethnic Autobiography due 8/2 by 11:59 PM

Week 9: 8/3 - 8/9: Social Development

Reading: Scott, Chapter 14

Quiz 4 due 8/9 by 11:59 PM

Week 10: 8/10 - 8/14: Undoing Racism

Reading: Scott, Chapter 15

****NO discussion questions or responses this week!**

Final Exam prompt available 8/10 by 12:00 noon. Final Exam is due 8/14 by 11:59 PM via Turnitin.com