

SOC 214: Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations

Summer 2011 Syllabus DRAFT (February 2011)

Instructor: Sang-hyoun Pakh

Office: Saunders 218

Email: pahks@hawaii.edu

Office hours: TBA

Course Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students to the sociology of race and ethnic relations. Some classes on this topic are organized by racial or ethnic group (one week on Black people, the next on “Asians,” etc.). Instead of this kind of “heritage month” approach that offers representative coverage at the expense of deeper connections, we will attempt to connect ideas of race and ethnicity to larger social forces. In other words, this course will not be just an inventory of stereotypes and a history of white men behaving badly. Rather, the course will focus on the deeper logics of race and ethnic relations, and how these operate in our lives today.

The course will begin in the first week by addressing (1) why race and ethnicity are still important topics of study despite the popularity of “post-racial” or “melting-pot” rhetoric, and (2) how sociologists define and approach the problem of race and ethnicity. Then, the bulk of the course will be devoted to investigating how race and ethnicity intersect with other social institutions, primarily in the United States (race and the economy, race and family, etc.). Over the course of the semester, we will periodically narrow our focus to examine race and ethnic relations here in Hawai`i. Hawai`i is unique in many ways, but not (as we will see) in the ways that are often assumed. Students will have a chance to apply analytical tools developed in the first part of the course to critically examine recent popular and academic discourse about race and ethnic relations in Hawai`i. This class is open to everyone.

Course Materials:

Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer. *Racial Domination, Racial Progress: the Sociology of Race in America*. New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2010.

Assignments and Grading:

Grades will be based on some combination of attendance and participation, short writing assignments, in-class quizzes, and a final exam. The number of writing assignments and quizzes, and the relative weight of each of these aspects in the final grade will be negotiated with the students in the first week of class.

Accommodations:

I am happy to arrange appropriate accommodations in cooperation with the KOKUA Program for any students who may require them. Please be sure to contact me and KOKUA (room 103 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center; 965-7612).

Tentative Course Calendar:

| Week | Date | Reading assignment |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Monday, May 23, 2011 Tuesday, May 24, 2011 Wednesday, May 25, 2011 Thursday, May 26, 2011 Friday, May 27, 2011 | Ch1 Race in the Twenty-first Century |
| 2 | Monday, May 30, 2011 Tuesday, May 31, 2011 Wednesday, June 01, 2011 Thursday, June 02, 2011 Friday, June 03, 2011 | Memorial Day Ch 2 The Invention of Race Ch 3 Politics |
| 3 | Monday, June 06, 2011 Tuesday, June 07, 2011 Wednesday, June 08, 2011 Thursday, June 09, 2011 Friday, June 10, 2011 | Ch 4 Economics Ch 5 Housing Kamehameha Day |
| 4 | Monday, June 13, 2011 Tuesday, June 14, 2011 Wednesday, June 15, 2011 Thursday, June 16, 2011 Friday, June 17, 2011 | Ch 6 Crime and Punishment Ch 7 Education |
| 5 | Monday, June 20, 2011 Tuesday, June 21, 2011 Wednesday, June 22, 2011 Thursday, June 23, 2011 Friday, June 24, 2011 | Ch 8 Aesthetics Ch 9 Associations Ch 10 Intimate Life |
| 6 | Monday, June 27, 2011 Tuesday, June 28, 2011 Wednesday, June 29, 2011 Thursday, June 30, 2011 Friday, July 01, 2011 | Ch 11 Toward Racial Justice |