

SOC 214  
Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations (3 units)  
TR 3-4:15pm Kuykendall 310  
Fall 2011

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Nicholas Gibson

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Office: Saunders Hall 217  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9am-12pm, Thursdays 4pm-7pm  
Or email/appointment  
Phone: (205) 265-1869 (If you leave a message, leave your name, callback number, and concern clearly and slowly)  
E-mail: gibsonn@hawaii.edu  
Prerequisite: N/A

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Race and ethnic relations in world perspective; social, economic, and political problems associated with perception, existence, and accommodation of these groups within the wider society.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through discussion, lecture, multimedia resources and individual research, the topics of race and ethnic relations will be introduced and examined. As a class, we will explore the concepts of race, ethnicity, multiculturalism and the opposite: anti-multiculturalism, color-blindness and racial insensitivity. We will also explore the assumptions embedded within social point-of-views which color our sociological lenses and which we can critically evaluate in order to understand reflexivity. **All students in this class will be expected to participate in small group work, larger classroom discussions and the presentation of research to the larger class.**

3. LEARNING GOALS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

This course meets the University of Hawaii Diversification Requirements in the Social Sciences (DS) for the Core Competency standards for each of the following areas: Critical Thought, Communication, Civic Engagement, Ethical and Moral Development, Cultural Respect and Tolerance, and Global Awareness

4. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Demonstrate understanding of racial inequalities in a western sense, and what racial inequality means in a global outlook
- Illustrate and discuss through written work the role of race and ethnicity in social and political decisions and effects
- Describe and discuss the concepts of racial privilege, assumptions regarding racial superiority, internalized racism and institutionalized racism

- Identify and demonstrate working understanding of sociological theories and their application to understanding real-world behaviors surrounding race and ethnicity
- Demonstrate ability to critically analyze, critique and evaluate evidence regarding race, ethnicity, and privilege, and how these all affect point-of-view
- Evaluate race and ethnicity in the context of the United States and outside of the U.S.

5. REQUIRED TEXT

*Think Race and Ethnicity* – Mona Scott

2011. Pearson.

ISBN: 9780205842216

(Pearson Education Inc., publishes the THINK introductory texts regularly. They are accessible to those of us who wish to make important and highly academic work available to us normal folks. This work is no different...highly sensitive, yet highly accurate and timely.)

We might explore certain concepts with outside readings, given appropriate time and availability of resources. These will be either posted on Laulima or handed out in class.

6. GRADING POLICY

**Grading Criteria:**

Quizzes 8 x 25 each:	200 points
Mid-term Report:	100
Final Research Report:	150 points

Total available points:	450 points
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Grading percentiles:

95 – 100%	A	90-94%	A-		
88 – 89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82%	B-
78 – 79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72%	C-
68 – 69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62%	D-
59% or lower			F		

The ability to retain knowledge will be measured in the classroom, and the skills of critical thinking and deeper theoretical synthesis will be assessed through the written work. The quizzes will be due in the student portal class inbox by 10pm on the due dates listed in the schedule. Any late exams will be marked down by 10% for every day they are time stamped late. The participation grade includes group work during class time, general involvement in class discussions, and involvement in group-based discussions.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Medical, legal or personal reasons for absences with documentation will not count against the attendance portion of the grade. Participation in class will be documented in part by analysis of group participation by group members, and unplanned group work designed to measure the reading comprehension of students in the course.

### **Missed Exams**

Any exam that is not turned in on time will not be counted toward the student's final grade. The exams will be posted on the student portal 5 (5) business days before their due date. Notification of an extenuating conflict is required, and a reasonable accommodation can be made.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves over the duration of the session; however, given the nature of this course it is highly unlikely. Any extra credit opportunity will be accompanied by secondary options, and not turning in extra credit will not negatively impact a course grade.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating is the equivalent of trying to steal grades either through specific actions of plagiarism, or general dishonest academic work. Plagiarism is using specific ideas from someone else without citing the original source. Academic dishonesty will be handled at the class level through a failing grade for the assignment and the class as per the Student Conduct Handbook, as well as referral to academic services for investigation and sanctions.

### **Grading Disputes**

Be sure to print out copies of the receipt of all exams turned in electronically, copies of extra credit work with grades, and any other communication between instructor and student in case of grade recording errors, which will be corrected if they can be proven by the student. If there are any further disputes, academic affairs personnel are always available to support students.

#### **7. SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES**

Any student with special needs will be accommodated. The student can make arrangements with the Kokua office, which is located downstairs in QLCSS 013; Phone: (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612.

#### **8. CLASS MEETING ETIQUETTE**

- **Cell phones will be turned off during class meeting times, except with prior approval from the instructor.**
- Computers will be used for academic purposes only during meeting times
- Discussion topics will sometimes be controversial. Therefore, we will respect the confidentiality of the classroom, the diversity of the student body, and the importance of engaging in substantive discussions of social inequality and political/societal issues.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Meeting Dates	Reading	Topics/Assignments
Week 1 Week of: August 22	Part 1: An Introduction to Race and Ethnicity	Historical, global, local perspectives on the construction of race, privilege
Week 2 Week of: August 29	Part 2: Social Inequality: Prejudice and Discrimination	Prejudice, discrimination, pushback, institutional and organization racism Quiz on Friday, 09/02/11
Week 3 Week of: September 5 No class Monday, 09/05	Part 3: Dominant Ideologies, Oppression and Inequalities	Privilege, theory, and running away with anger Quiz on Friday, 09/09/11
Week 4 Week of: September 12	Part 4: Privilege and White Supremacy	White supremacy, gender, and what we know to be 'normal'
Week 5 Week of: September 19	Part 5: Internalized Oppression	Who are we, how does internalization affect all of us and what we know? Quiz on Friday, 09/23/11
Week 6 Week of: September 26	Part 6: Education	Racial grouping, historical implications and why we all don't know the same things
Week 7 Week of: October 3	Part 7: Media	What we know, how we know it, and how we make it look good to each other Quiz on Friday, 10/07/11
Week 8 Week of: October 10	Part 8: Residential Segregation	Government support, government intervention, and blowback from residential purists
Week 9 Week of: October 17	Part 9: Economic Inequality	Wealth, Capitalism, and consumption Mid-term due in Laulima by 10pm on October 21
Week 10 Week of: October 24	Part 10: Health Inequality	Factors, groups and stratification Quiz on Friday, 10/28/11

Week 11 Week of: October 31	Part 11: The Law	Who makes 'em, who breaks 'em, and why it matters
Week 12 Week of: November 7 No class Friday, 11/11	Part 12: Land and Property	America, Israel, Palestine, Hawaii...no exceptions Quiz on Friday, 11/11/11
Week 13 Week of: November 14	Part 13: Immigration and Citizenship	Almost everyone is an immigrant; so what's the deal? Quiz on Friday, 11/18/11
Week 14 Week of: November 21 No class Thurs/Fri 11/23, 24	Section 14: Social Development	Becoming a race-conscious and just society
Week 15 Week of: November 28	Section 15: Undoing Racism	Anti-racism, activism, and why it is important for everyone Quiz on Friday, 12/02/11
Week 16 Week of: December 5 Last class meeting Dec 7	Undoing Racism: Wrap-up & Review	
Finals Week Week of: December 12		Final due in Laulima by 10pm on December 14 <sup>th</sup> .