

SOC 214: Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations

Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:45pm, Bilger 150

Sun-Ki Chai

Tentative Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12-2

Required Textbooks

Stephen E. Cornell and Douglas Hartmann, *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*, 2nd Edition (Pine Forge Press, 2006). ISBN 978-1412941105.

Stefan Wolff, *Ethnic Conflict: A Global Perspective* (Oxford University Press, 2007), ISBN 978-0192805881.

Main Assignments

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance will be taken and will account for a major portion of your grade. Because much of the knowledge required for this class will be covered only in lecture, it will not be possible to keep up without class attendance. In addition, maintaining some minimum level of participation in class discussions will count for a small portion of your grade.

Readings

Readings will be assigned from the two required textbooks on a weekly schedule to be posted at the beginning of the semester. You may expect that will complete most of both assigned textbooks. Additional outside readings of your own selection will be necessary for your short writing assignments and final exam paper.

Short Writing Assignments

There will be three short essays (3 pages each) interspersed through the semester. Each of them will require that you apply the theoretical knowledge from the readings *and* lecture to some recent news event or current trend. For each essay, you will be expected to collect one outside article (from within the last month) that covers the issue. You must summarize the content of the article and show how concepts and/or theories discussed in the class help to explain the issue being covered in the article.

Final Writing Assignment

You will be given a take-home final examination (10 pages) that extends one of your short essays to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different theories covered in the class in light of some important contemporary issue. You are encouraged to develop your

own theory, building on the existing ones, in order to better understand the issue in question.

Plagiarism

It goes without saying that plagiarism will be dealt with in a very strict manner in this course, and can result in failure of the course or even penalties beyond the course depending on the severity of the infraction. It is the student's responsibility to understand the rules for plagiarism.

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992, p. 6): Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.

Accommodations

As with other courses, I am happy to work with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course for student with special learning needs. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.