

Ethnic Minorities in America

Fall 2014

Instructor: Professor Sarita Gaytán
Office Location: 333 BEH
Email: sarita.gaytan@soc.utah.edu
Office Hours: TBA



Course Description

This course explores how ethnic minority populations navigate a range of political, economic, and legal circumstances in the United States. The class lectures and readings consider the diverse and sometimes overlapping experiences of different ethnic/racial groups and addresses subjects such as: Immigration, Law, Science, Environment, Education, Media, Food Politics, and Social Justice. Applying a sociological lens, we will pay attention to the historical and contemporary ways that ideas about race and ethnicity are instituted, circulated, and made meaningful in society. We will also examine the intersections of class, gender, and sexuality in the lives of ethnic minority populations and will discuss how people work to eradicate inequalities.

Course Goals

- 1). Students will understand key sociological concepts, methods, theories, perspectives, and approaches related to the study of ethnic minority populations.
- 2). Students will be able to apply sociological analysis to contemporary examples and their own lives.
- 3). Students will practice their critical thinking and writing skills.

Required Texts

All required readings are available online in Canvas.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1). Two exams	200 points
2). Paper #1	100 points
3). Participation and attendance	100 points
4). Paper #2	100 points
Total:	500 points

Exams: There are two short answer/essay question-based exams, worth 100 points each that will cover material from the readings, lectures, and films shown in class.

Paper #1: An essay that brings your life experiences into dialogue with themes, concepts, and theories we discuss in class. (4-5 pages).

Paper #2: An essay that brings your life experiences into dialogue with themes, concepts, and theories we discuss in class. (4-5 pages).

A detailed guide for each of these papers will be handed out in lecture as the course proceeds

Participation and Attendance

I expect you to come to class ready to participate and engage with the subject matter. To ensure a respectful and productive environment in the classroom, my expectations for you are:

- To arrive to class on time.
- To bring a copy of the assigned readings to class with you.
- To complete the assigned readings *before* coming to class.
- To complete the required written assignments on time.
- To prevent disruption of the learning environment (no cell phones!).
- To follow University of Utah code for student conduct (see below).

Course Policies

Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized 5% of the grade for each day they are not turned in.

Academic Conduct

In addition to these requirements, students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom as stipulated in the Student Code, which can be found here:

<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code and know that they are responsible for its content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty members' responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

I expect that all work you produce over the course of the semester will be your own. If you plagiarize any material from outside sources for your written work in the class, **IT WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE OF THE ENTIRE COURSE**. There are no exceptions to this, and no second chances. When in doubt, ask.

Accommodations Policy: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations.

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.

Weekly Outline

Note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

Week One:

August 26th (Tues.): **Course goals and learning objectives**

August 28th (Thurs.): **Defining our terms**

Week Two:

Sept. 2nd (Tues.): **Defining our terms**
Sept. 4th (Thurs.): **Defining our terms**

Week Three:

Sept. 9th (Tues.): **Laws of the land**
Sept. 11th (Thurs.): **Laws of the land**

Week Four:

Sept. 16th (Tues): **Laws of the land**
Sept. 18th (Thurs.): **Science and research**

Week Five:

Sept. 23rd (Tues.): **Science and research**
Sept. 25th (Thurs.): **Science and research**

Week Six:

Sept. 30th (Tues.): **Education**
Oct. 1st (Thurs.): **Education**

Week Seven:

Oct. 7th (Tues.): **Education**
Oct. 9th (Thurs.): **Exam #1**

FALL BREAK

Week Eight:

Oct. 21st (Tues.): **Work and wealth**
Oct. 23rd (Thurs.): **Work and wealth**

Week Nine:

Oct. 28th (Tues.): **Work and wealth**
Oct. 30th (Thurs.): **Work and wealth**

Week Ten:

Nov. 4th (Tues.): **Environment and food politics**
Nov. 6th (Thurs.): **Environment and food politics**

Week Eleven:

Nov. 11th (Tues.): **Environment and food politics**

Nov. 13th (Thurs.): **Environment and food politics**

Week Twelve:

Nov. 18th (Tues.): **Media**

Nov. 20th (Thurs.): **Media**

Week Thirteen:

Nov. 25th (Tues.): **Media**

Nov. 27th (Thurs.): **No class, Thanksgiving**

Week Fourteen:

Dec. 2nd (Tues.): **Identity and social justice**

Dec. 4th (Thurs.): **Identity and social justice**

Week Fifteen:

Dec. 9th (Tues.): **Identity and social justice**

Dec. 11th (Thurs.): **Exam #2**