Course: Race and Ethnic Relations     Semester: Spring 2015
Instructor: Dr. Bilaye Benibo        Office: BH 346
Time: Tue/Thu 11-12:15 p.m.            Phone: 825-5980
Classroom: CI 106                           Office Hours: T/R 1-2 p.m.
Course #: SOCI 3312:001                 T/R 4-5 p.m.
                        Mon 3-4 p.m.
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Required Text
Schaefer, Richard T. Racial and Ethnic Groups
                 New York: Harper Collins College Publishers

Recommended Reading

Course Description and Objective
Although racial/ethnic consciousness is, globally speaking, wide-spread, the degree to which it affects national politics and interpersonal relationships vary from country to country. For example, in France, Germany and Great Britain, race/ethnicity, has latent effects on politics; not so in the United States. In the U.S. race/ethnicity is manifest and central in almost every fabric of national policy decision and interpersonal relationship.

The objective of this course is to develop a sociological understanding of the concepts of race and ethnicity, the processes by which groups take on and/or shed racial identities, and the socio-economic consequences of cleavages along racial/ethnic lines. Our primary focus is the United States.

Using insights from sociological theories as searchlights, we will examine the roles race/ethnic-based prejudice and discrimination play in the differential access to education, employment, health, etc. in the U. S. The unique experiences of all the major racial/ethnic groups will be examined, beginning from early immigration to the present. This, obviously, would require sacrificing some depth for comprehensiveness.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Define and understand the complexities of key concepts such as race, ethnicity, prejudice discrimination etc.

- Explain the assumptions and applications of key theoretical perspectives to race and ethnic relations.

- Identify the significance, strengths and limitations of sociological research methods in the study of race and ethnic relation.

- Appreciate immigration policies as reflections and institutionalization of race relations in the U.S.

- Distinguish among the relative experiences of White, Native, African, Asian, and Hispanic - Americans and their respective roles in the evolution of race/ethnic relations in the U.S.

**Course Requirements**

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:

- First Examination --- 30 percent
- Second Examination ---- 30 percent
- Final Examination ---- 40 percent
- Total..................100 Percent

All exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-ups and/or extra credits will not be allowed unless for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. Exams are in-class, and in essay format. Exam questions require thoughtful, analytical and comprehensive answers to questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings. Blue (Examination) books are required for all exams. Class attendance is very important. There is a 2-percentage-point deduction from final grade for every unexcused absence from class. That said, students are still responsible for seeking and obtaining lecture and other materials presented and/or passed out in class on the days that they are absent from class.
**Class Format**
All class meetings will comprise straight lectures and discussion. The first hour of each class meeting is devoted to lectures. And the last 15 minutes are reserved for questions, discussions and/or debates. This format is preferred, not mandatory. On days when videos are used to buttress class lectures, or when guest speakers are invited to teach, the suggested class format may change.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

**Disability Services**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for person with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Please contact the Disability Services Office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
**Grade Appeals Process**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process for submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office at (361) 825-5816.

**Course Outline**

Jan. 22  -Introduction: Instructor, Course and Students  
   -Critical Thinking about Race Relations (Reading 1)

Jan. 27-29  -Definitions, Perspectives and Methods in race and ethnic relations (RS, chp1; Reading 2)

Feb.03-05  -Prejudice and Discrimination (RS, chaps 2&3)

Feb. 10  First Exam.

Feb.12-19  -Immigration and race relations (RS, chaps. 4&5)

Feb. 24-Mar.05  -White Americans and the Anglo Core Culture  
   (Reading 3)

Mar.10/12/24  -American Indians:The First Americans (RS, chap. 6)

**Mar. 16-20 SPRING BREAK**

Mar. 26  -Second Examination

Mar 31- May 05-African Americans (RS, chap. 7&8)
   - Hispanic Americans (RS chaps. 9-11)
   - Asian Americans (RS chaps. 12-14)

May. 12  - Final Examination

*** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the
instructor to accommodate students' and/or instructional needs.