

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for SOC 3

CULTURAL AND RACIAL MINORITIES

Effective: Spring 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOC 3 — CULTURAL AND RACIAL MINORITIES — 3.00 units

Racial and ethnic relations in the United States. Examines the cultural, political, and economic practices and institutions that support or challenge racism, racial and ethnic inequalities, as well as patterns of interaction between various racial and ethnic groups.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

SOC 1 - Principles of Sociology
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Sociology

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. SOC1

1. Explain how identities such as gender and race are socially constructed.
2. Develop an argumentative research-based term paper
3. Outline the symbiotic relationship between culture and social structure

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Outline and apply basic race relations theories and models to past and contemporary U.S. intergroup relations;
- B. Critique current U.S. policies regarding immigration, affirmative action, education, etc;
- C. Identify the major political and scientific contributions to the U.S.' social and legal construction of race and ethnicity;
- D. Identify the cultural, political, historical, and institutional factors affecting the social construction of race and ethnic relations
- E. Differentiate concepts such as prejudice, discrimination, segregation, assimilation, and pluralism
- F. Compare and contrast the experiences of groups that have been historically marginalized, particularly groups defined by ethnicity and race
- G. Analyze intersections of race and ethnicity with gender, class, and other locations of identity
- H. Identify, compare, and contrast the experiences of major ethnic and racial groups
- I. Examine majority-minority group relations including issues such as power and privilege

V. CONTENT:

A. Identity construction - theoretical overview:

1. A look at sociological "we and they" theories of ethnicities and race (e.g. Bellah's "community of memories", Benedict's "imagined communities").
2. Extrinsic and intrinsic definitions of ethnic and racial identity.
3. American racial categories and assumptions about race compared to other nations.
4. Impact of ethnic conflict on identity construction (e.g., Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Israel).
5. The social creation of culture (e.g. PanAfrican movement). Social structure's impact on the creation of categories (e.g., Apartheid)
6. Analyze the intersections of gender, class, and other identities

B. Hierarchies of identity

1. Introduction to concepts of racism, prejudice and discrimination (e.g. Merton).
2. Coverage of "white privilege" concept (McIntosh).
3. Differences between institutional and individual forms of racism (e.g. WJ Wilson's work on "why work disappears in inner

- cities, sterilization programs in US and Puerto Rico).
- C. Intergroup conflict – Why does it occur?
 1. Introduction to terms pluralism, melting pot, and cultural hierarchy.
 2. A look of processes of conquest, colonization and labor migration.
 3. Coverage of integration continuum: segregation, accommodation, acculturation, assimilation, and amalgamation.
 4. Look at the construction of "whiteness" and "hidden ethnicity".
 - D. Lasting impact of European conquest and colonization in US
 1. Impact of "Age of Exploration" in Europe.
 2. Concepts of racialism, "progress", and eventually manifest destiny.
 3. Impact of Immigration and Naturalization Act.
 4. Compare colonial experiences of Native Americans, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans.
 5. Look at 20th century political movements which solidified identity of groups.
 6. Look at current issues (e.g. PR sovereignty, Reservation self-reliance issues, English-only movement).
 7. Construction of term "hispanic".
 - E. The legal construction of race in the US - case study 'Blackness' US racial classifications based on social belief rather than on a biological or genetic formula.
 1. Look at European influences in definitions of race.
 2. Coverage of economic influences in US definitions of race.
 3. Multiple definitions of blackness in US prior to 1850, and how mixed race groups were defined.
 4. Compare US definitions with other nations.
 5. Introduce concepts of "one-drop rule", miscegenation, mulatto, etc..
 6. Look at political influences of impending civil war on definitions of blackness in South and North.
 7. Impact of reconstruction and Jim Crow.
 8. 19th and 20th century Black political movements in US. Garvey/Dubois conflict over definition of Blackness.
 9. Impact of urban development and segregation.
 10. The class divide between African-Americans in US. Current controversies: e.g. Wilson's declining significance of race, affirmative action controversies, growing multiracial population.
 - F. Immigration and assimilation in the United States
 1. Social-psychological pressures of assimilation - anglo-conformity v. transmuting pot.
 2. Cover types of dominant group policies towards racial and ethnic minorities: genocide, expulsion, oppression, transmuting or melting pot, pluralism, and separatism.
 3. Compare assimilation models.
 4. Look at current impact of globalization and global economy on immigration models.
 5. Compare different group experiences (e.g. 19th century Irish to 20th century Mexican immigration).
 6. Compare same group experiences (e.g. first and third wave Cuban immigration; 19th and late 20th century Chinese immigration).
 7. Current myths, facts, and controversies over immigration policies.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Research** - group projects
- C. **Lecture** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Research paper – Based either on raw data (census, general social survey, etc.) or other sociological methodology (e.g., content analysis, scenario building, qualitative interviewing).
 1. 2020 Future of Ethnicity Project - using current data and scenario building methodologies, project several different futures of ethnicity in the United States.
- B. Reading assignments – Must include one full work. Recommend use of literary pieces, especially for less diverse class populations.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 1. Exams/Tests
 2. Papers
- B. **Frequency**
 1. At least one midterm and final exam.
 2. At least one 10 page term paper.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Golash-Boza, . (2015). *Race & Racisms* (1st ed.). New York, New York: Oxford .
2. Emerson , . (2016). *Unmaking Race and Ethnicity* (1 ed.). Oxford , England : Oxford .
3. Desmond, . (2015). *Race in America* (1 ed.). New York, New York: Norton.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: