

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today.](#)



Course Overview

Over our three week semester, we will explore theories of race, ethnicity, and inequality as they pertain to minority groups in the United States. While all of these distinctions are socially constructed, they have concrete consequences for and structure the experiences of minority groups in the U.S.. It is this critical dimension of U.S. society that elicits a range of feelings, ideas, and actions among our population. The goal of this course is to provide you with the sociological tools to understand these complex concepts and their consequences. We will review theories of race and ethnicity, examine the history and experiences of contemporary American minorities like Black Americans, Chicano/Latinos, Asian Americans, and explore what the future holds for cultural and racial minorities in the United States. We will also cover additional minority and majority groups that experience inequality like the LGBTQ populations, the elderly, and

the disabled. Whenever possible, we will use our sociological toolbox to examine current events and contemporary issues that pertain to minority groups in the United States.

Enjoy & Happy Learning!

Dr. Sandhu

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- sociologically understand race and ethnicity and how they are critical dimensions of U.S. society
- apply key theories of race and ethnicity to understand the plight of contemporary American minorities like African Americans, Chicanos/Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. You will also be able to understand the history and experiences of the LGBTQ and elderly populations
- become an informed and critical purveyor of multi-method research and the discourse on minority groups in the United States

How our Online Course Works

Online courses have a negative reputation -- instructors are thought to be absent and there is a perception that there is little interaction among students. I hope that this course is not like that. I have organized fun readings and assignments that sure that will help us become an online community.

Your course is organized into eighteen modules. Each day we will cover a new topic, you will complete your readings here on Canvas, and complete assignments that range from discussions, reflection essays, quizzes, and even video conferences with each other. Take a look at the schedule below to get a sense of the topics we will cover the short term as well as your assignments. While it may seem like a lot to cover in three weeks, it is manageable.

Don't forget that you have an assignment due daily by 11:59 pm.

Due to the fast nature of our term, I cannot accept late assignments.

We may be an online course, but current technologies allow us to interact in novel ways.

Email me if you need anything! My email address is ssandhu@peralta.edu (<mailto:ssandhu@peralta.edu>) or just send an email through the inbox button on Canvas.

You can also set up an appointment to video conference here in Canvas (just send me an email or message)



Textbook or Course Materials

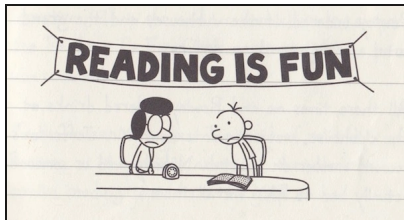
You will be able to achieve our course learning outcomes by completing the exciting mix of readings I have selected for you.

In lieu of a textbook or assigning several separate books, you will read an eclectic mix of sociological research, comparative literature, and even urban fiction. All of these readings are accessible on Canvas.

Each week you can click on the uploaded readings (readings are organized by week so that there is no confusion about what you should be reading).

At the College of Alameda, we adhere to U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code Sect. 101, et seq). Therefore, these readings are available through the fair use provision of the act. Some of the readings are unpublished and available through direct permission of the author(s). Therefore, I ask that you use the readings for educational purposes only and do not distribute the readings outside of the scope of our course.

If you have an aversion to reading electronic documents, I have a course reader on reserve at the College of Alameda library. Please visit the circulation desk and ask for the Sociology 5 Course Reader under my name -- Dr. Sabeen Sandhu.



Assignments and Grading

This course is full of assignments! Strive to keep up with the course readings - remember, the readings and discussion posts are your primary homework. Complete the readings, take notes on the key findings, your questions, and also your critiques, and think about the relationship between the readings.

Beyond the readings, I have selected a mix of assignments for you this semester - writing assignments, discussion board posts, quizzes (which are open notes, readings, and other materials), and even film reviews. Click on some upcoming modules to check out the assignments. Just avoid clicking on the quizzes until you are ready to complete them - they are usually set for only one attempt and are timed.

Keep in mind, I do not accept late assignments out of fairness to all students, unless you have a medical excuse or approved academic activity. Please inform me of your late work prior to the deadline! Also, due to the volume of assignments, you need to see me during office hours to have approved late assignments graded.

Your grade is based on the points that you earn in each module. At the end of our short course your points will be summed up and divided by **550** - the total points possible in the course. I will also offer some extra credit opportunities - be sure to check the news feed for

information.

Important Notes

- If you are a student with a disability, please let me know about your needed accommodations immediately. If you are a new student and need evaluation or verification of your needed accommodations, please contact Disability Services and Programs for Students (DSPS).
- [Student resources and support info.](#)
- No late assignments are accepted unless you have a valid medical or academic excuse. If you have a valid reason to submit a late assignment, you must do so during my office hours. Please refer to the College of Alameda Student Handbook for more information.
- Do not cheat! It is wrong and **you and I will feel bad if you do it.** I will also have to issue you an F for the course and report you to the division office for cheating.
- Be respectful to your colleagues and instructor on Canvas. Refrain from using profanity on the discussion boards and in assignments unless you are quoting an author or interviewee. Be sure to use each others' names when corresponding - ex., "Hi Sabeen - can you explain the assignment to me...?"
- Be sure to use your Peralta college email address when corresponding with me or your colleagues. If you use an alternate address be sure to change it on Canvas and Passport to ensure that you receive important correspondence from myself and the college.

Here are some instructions:

<http://web.peralta.edu/it/studentemail/> ↗ [\(http://web.peralta.edu/it/studentemail/\)](http://web.peralta.edu/it/studentemail/)

[Link](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10592-4212710338) ↗ [\(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10592-4212710338\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10592-4212710338)

Course Schedule

Day 1 (Tuesday, May 28th, 2019) Course Orientation & Introductions

Sociological Selfie - 25 Points

Day 2 (Wednesday, May 29th, 2019) White Privilege & Colorism

Video & Discussion Forum 25 Points

Day 3 (Thursday, May 30th, 2019) The US Census & the Racial & Ethnic Cosmology

Census Activity - 25 Points

Day 4 (Friday, May 31st, 2019) Science & Race

Discussion Forum 30 Points; Quiz 20 Points

Day 5 (Saturday, June 1st, 2019) Minority Groups & Health Disparities

Video & Discussion Forum 25 Points

Day 6 (Sunday, June 2nd, 2019) Race or Class...?

Video & Discussion Forum

Day 7 (Monday, June 3rd, 2019) Housing

Video & Discussion Post - 25 Points

Day 8 (Tuesday, June 4th, 2019) Low Wage Work

Video & Discussion Forum - 25 Points

Day 9 (Wednesday, June 5th, 2019) Your Neighborhood & the U.S. Census Research & Writing Assignment

Writing Assignment - 50 Points

Day 10 (Thursday, June 6th, 2019) International Migration & Assimilation

Migration Prediction 30 Points; Quiz 20 Points

Day 11 (Friday, June 7th, 2019) Theories of Spousal Preference / Interracial Marriage & Multiracial Identity

Writing Assignment - 50 Points

Day 12 (Saturday, June 8th, 2019) Music & Inequality

Discussion Post - 25 Points

Day 13 (Sunday, June 9th, 2019) - LGBTQIA+ & Family Forms

[Video & Reflection Post](http://eperalta.org/fall2016/mod/assign/view.php?id=24264)  [_ \(http://eperalta.org/fall2016/mod/assign/view.php?id=24264\)](http://eperalta.org/fall2016/mod/assign/view.php?id=24264) - 25 Points

Day 14 (Monday, June 10th, 2019) - Race & Language

Discussion Post - 25 Points

Day 15 (Tuesday, June 11th, 2019) Race, Ethnicity & Humor

Discussion Post - 25 Points

Day 16 (Wednesday, June 12th, 2019) Inequality and the Criminal Justice System

Reflection Essay - 25 Points




Day 17 (Thursday, June 13th, 2019) Aging, Disability, & Discrimination












Video & Discussion Post - 25 Points








Day 18 (Friday, June 14th, 2019) The Future of Identities

Short Reflection Essay - 25 Points

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Thu May 17, 2018	 Extra Credit Letter to the Editor (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148758)	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 28, 2019	 Post your Selfie Here (25 Points) (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148747)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 29, 2019	 White Privilege & Colorism Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148746)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Thu May 30, 2019	 Post Here - Census Forum Activity (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148748)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 31, 2019	 Exploring the Intersections of Race, Ethnicity, and Genomics Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148749)	due by 11:59pm
	 Science & Race Quiz Due by 11:59 PM on Friday 5/31/19 (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148743)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 1, 2019	 Unequal Health Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148750)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 2, 2019	 Video & Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148751)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 3, 2019	 Bay Area Housing Inequality Discussion Forum (25 Points) (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148755)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 4, 2019	 Fast Food or Low Wage Work Observation Post (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148752)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 5, 2019	 Writing Assignment - Your Neighborhood & the U.S. Census (Due Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 by 11:59 PM) (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148763)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 6, 2019	 Assimilation Quiz (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148744)	due by 11:59pm
	 Migration Prediction Post using the MPI (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148756)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 7, 2019	 Writing Assignment - The Color Line and Dating in the SF Bay Area (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148762)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sat Jun 8, 2019	 Music & Inequality Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148753)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 9, 2019	 Reflection Essay - Families 2019 (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148760)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 10, 2019	 Language & The Color Line (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148754)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 11, 2019	 Racial and Ethnic Humor Discussion Forum (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148757)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 12, 2019	 Race & Criminal Justice Reflection Essay (25 Points) (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148759)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 13, 2019	 Ageism & Discrimination Against the Disabled (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148745)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 14, 2019	 Short Reflection Essay - The Future of Identities (https://peralta.instructure.com/courses/25962/assignments/148761)	due by 11:59pm