

SOC345 Minorities in the United States

(HUM340 History and Civilization of Native Americans under the 2004 curriculum)

Spring 2010 TR 10:30-11:45

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Note: The content of this course is based on the 2008 curriculum (SOC345 Minorities in the United States). Students under the 2004 curriculum will register under the old course code and title (HUM340 History and Civilization of Native Americans).

Course Objectives

Through this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Understand the conditions of race and ethnic minorities in the United States
- 2) Assess the factors that affect the conditions, including historical context / development
- 3) Discuss current political and social controversies surrounding minorities

Course Description

This course seeks to understand the history and current conditions of minorities in the United States. Particular emphasis will be on racial and ethnic minorities such as African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanics. The course will focus on particular *groups* as well as on *issues* surrounding minorities, such as migration, integration and equality.

Classroom Activities

Course format: Lectures by the instructor combined with small group discussion, debate and other active learning methods. Audio-visual material will be utilized to facilitate learning. **Assignments:** Please read assigned readings prior to class. There will be several class assignments, including group presentations during the second half of the semester. Details will be announced in class. **Policies:** Attendance is mandatory. All assignments need to be submitted on time. Exceptions may be made only with approval by the instructor for legitimate reasons. **Feedback:** You are encouraged to ask questions or provide comments during class. Your feedback is always welcome. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail or by visiting my office.

Prerequisites

None

Evaluation

Mid-term examination	30 points
Final examination	40 points
Response papers	10 points
Presentation	10 points
Participation	10 points

Course Materials

Issues in Race and Ethnicity (CQ Press)—required purchase

Major references:

John Hope Franklin, Alfred A. Moss, Jr., *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*

Sucheng Chan, *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History*

Vincent N. Parrillo, *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations*

Mohsen M. Mobasher, Mahmoud Sadri, *Migration, Globalization, and Ethnic Relations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*

Lon Kurashige, Alice Yang Murray eds., *Major Problems in Asian American History*

Additional materials will be distributed in class or placed on hold in the library.

Class Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to changes and adjustments

Chapters in parentheses refer to textbook chapters.

Part I. Race relations in the U.S. (African Americans)

Week 1 (Apr. 13, 15) Introduction: Race in America (Chap. 2)

Introduction to the course, definitions, perspectives

Significance of race in U.S. society: racial disparity and discrimination

Week 2 (Apr. 20, 22)

Contemporary issues (1) -- Desegregation (Chap.4)

School desegregation and educational outcomes

Opposition to integration, busing controversy, and “resegregation”

Week 3 (Apr. 27)

Contemporary issues (2) -- Affirmative Action (Chap. 1)

Debate: The University of Michigan cases

Week 4 (May 6)

Contemporary issues (3) -- Crime and criminal justice

Racial disparities in the criminal justice system, especially the death penalty

Rodney King trial, criminal procedure and LA riots

Week 5 (May 11, 13)

African American history (1) -- Slavery and Reconstruction

Slavery, slave trade and slave codes (Franklin & Moss, p.139-158)

Reconstruction, its failure and Jim Crow (Franklin & Moss, p. 272-291)

Week 6 (May 18, 20)

African American history (2) -- The Civil Rights Movement

Civil Rights Movement (Franklin & Moss, p.526-549)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 and conservative backlash

Assessing civil rights today

Week 7 (May 25, 27)

Native Americans (Chap.12)

Week 8 (June 1, 3): *Review and Mid-term*

Part II. History and status of immigrant groups

Week 9 (June 8, 10)

Asian Americans (1) -- Immigration and exclusion

Approaches to minority integration (Parrillo, p.43-52)

Chinese, Japanese immigration and host society reception

(Sucheng Chan, *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History*)

Week 10 (June 15, 17)

Asian Americans (2) – History, assimilation, and identity

The history and identity of Japanese Americans

(Hisaye Yamamoto, “Las Vegas Charley”)

Asian Americans and second generation assimilation

(Excerpts from Kurashige & Murray: *Major Problems in Asian American History*)

Week 11 (June 22, 24)

Asian Americans (3) -- Socio-economic status and contemporary issues

The “model minority” myth

Asian Americans and debates over bilingual education, affirmative action

(Excerpts from Kurashige & Murray: *Major Problems in Asian American History*)

Week 12 (Jun. 29, Jul. 1)

Group presentations on ethnic groups in the United States

Week 13 (July 6, 8)

Refugees

Refugee flows and the international framework

Reception and integration of refugees

Week 14 (July 13, 15)

Debate over Mexican immigration (Chap. 9)

History and forces behind Mexican migration

Amnesty (1986 Act), Proposition 187, and border enhancement

Week 15 (July 20, 22)

Latinos and demographic change (Chap.10)

Debate: Assimilation and bilingual education

Review session

Week 16 (July 27)

Final examination