

SOC 134: AMERICAN RACIAL and ETHNIC MINORITIES

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Fall Semester 2006

Instructor: Robyn Autry
Office: 2439 Sewell Social Science Bldg
Office Hrs: Monday; 2:00-4:00 pm or by appointment
Email: rautry@ssc.wisc.edu
Course No: 20150
Meeting: MWF 11:00—11:50 am; B302 Birge Hall
Website: <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of the impact of social problems on racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. The social construction and development of racial and ethnic minority groups, as well as contemporary relations between these groups are all explored. Some of you will have strong opinions about many of the subjects covered in this course. However, it is important to step outside of our personal experiences and opinions, in order to begin to think *sociologically* about social problems and processes. We will explore various theoretical approaches and conceptual frameworks to develop the tools needed for rigorous sociological analysis.

Course Objectives

The ultimate goal of this class is for you to understand how social problems impact minority groups. You should become aware of the importance of social location, classification, and minority status in determining our life chances and quality of life. In addition, you should be able to identify the persistent sources of strain and patterns of conflict at the interpersonal, groups, and societal level.

Required Reading

Healey, Joseph. (2006). *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class: The Sociology of Group Conflict and Change*. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.

Several required readings are also on reserve. Refer to the electronic reserves for this course in your My UW accounts at <https://login.wisc.edu/> for access. Hard copies of these readings are available at the Social Science Reference Library on the 8th floor of the Sewell Social Science Building.

Attendance

You are expected to attend each class session and are responsible for all information presented during class, including lectures, handouts, and videos. I will randomly circulate attendance sheets during the semester to track attendance. If you do not sign during class time, you will be counted as absent. Please note that attendance accounts for 5% of your final grade.

Excused absences may be granted in severe cases of family or medical emergencies.

Class Participation

Class participation is essential for engaging with the course material. Active participation will demonstrate how our diverse perspectives and experiences add to the complexity of social issues. You are encouraged to ask questions and make comments during lectures. You are *required* to participate in weekly group discussions through chat rooms and on-line surveys through [Learn@UW](#). You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful manner and refrain from offensive language during all class discussions. Class participation accounts for 5% of your final grade.

Digging Deeper Projects

Students are expected to complete *three* mini projects designed to complement each part of the text *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class* (there are five projects from which to choose). These 2-3 page projects require you to apply key concepts from our readings to issues and events on campus and in our community. The Digging Deeper Projects account for 30% of your final grade (10% each). Detailed instructions and grading criteria will be provided. Late exercises will NOT be accepted. Students may submit only one exercise at a time corresponding to where we are in the text. Please refer to the course schedule for deadlines.

Projects: UW Diversity; *This American Life*; Allied Drive (South Madison); Wisconsin Tribes; and Food & Culture.

Exams

There are three exams in this class (see course schedule for dates). Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. There are no make-up exams for any reasons other than major illness or family emergency with documentation. If a make-up exam is granted in extreme circumstances, you will be required to take the exam *prior* to the regularly schedule time. Students not excused from a missed exam will receive an F for that exam.

The format for each exam is multiple choice, identifications, and short answer. Each exam includes a variety of testing approaches to accommodate different test-taking styles.

Grading

Please do not plan on extra credit or a curve to boost your final grade (there is no curve).

<i>Assignment:</i>		<i>Scale:</i>	
Project 1	10%	93-----100	A
Project 2	10%	89-----92	AB
Project 3	10%	80-----88	B
Exam I	20%	76-----79	BC
Exam II	20%	70-----75	C
Exam III	20%	60-----69	D
Attendance	5%	59 and below	F
Participation	5%		
Total	100		

Academic Misconduct (Cheating)

Students who cheat or attempt to cheat will automatically receive an F for that exam or assignment. In addition, the incident will be reported in writing to the Dean of your school of college as well as the Dean of Students so that s/he may decide whether further action is needed. A clear definition of plagiarism as well as information about disciplinary sanctions for academic misconduct can be found at the Dean of Students website: www.wisc.edu/students/UWS14.htm. Knowledge of these rules is your responsibility, and lack of familiarity with these rules does not excuse misconduct.

If you are having trouble with the course please visit my office hours for assistance. Other resources include the UW Writing Center (www.wisc.edu/writing/index.htm) and GUTS tutoring (guts.studentorg.wisc.edu). The Sociology Department also offers limited tutoring services for undergraduates.

Special Needs:

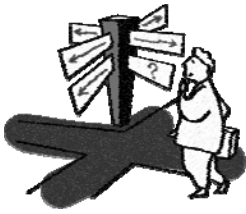
Students with disabilities or any other circumstances beyond their control should speak to me early in the semester to discuss possible accommodations. All accommodations must be reasonable and are made at the instructor's discretion. Students with disabilities should contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (263-2742) for consultation.

Email Etiquette

If you have questions or concerns, always check the course website first for updates and detailed instructions. If you still have questions, feel free to contact me via email at rautry@ssc.wisc.edu before 5pm M-F.

Lecture Etiquette

Please avoid disruptions such as arriving late, talking, eating, reading, or packing before the end of the class. These activities are distracting, disturb other students, and interfere with the flow of the lectures.



COURSE SCHEDULE

T indicates a reading from your text *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class*

R indicates a reserve reading available through My UW or the Social Science Library

E indicates a Digging Deeper Project (you are expected to complete **3 projects**)

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

PART 1 THE STUDY OF MINORITY GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES		
4 September	6 September	8 September
No Class: Labor Day	Introduction and Overview Reading: None	Social Problems and the Sociological Imagination R: Mills, p. 1-5 R: Charon, 3-11
11 September	13 September	15 September
Minority Groups in the US T: p. 7-17 R: Race and Hispanic Origin, p. 1-11	Social Construction of Race T: p. 18-26 R: Things to Know about Race R: Statement on "Race"	Dominant-Minority Relations T: 26-31 White Privilege R: McIntosh, p. 1-2; Jensen, p. 1-2
18 September	20 September	22 September
Assimilation T: p. 35-46 R: Mapping Diversity, p. 1-5 E: UW Diversity Project, Due 9/25	Blending of America T: p. 47-49 America's Changing Color Lines R: Lee & Bean, p. 221-242	Pluralism T: p. 50-60 Racial Mixing R: US Census, p.1-12
PART II UNDERSTANDING PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION		
25 September	27 September	29 September
Prejudice and Discrimination T: p. 77-87 Minorities and Ageism R: Yang & Levkoff, p. 42-48	Theories of Prejudice T: p. 83-97 Jewish Stereotypes R: Beck, p. 430-436	Types of Prejudice T: p. 97-105 Racial Profiling R: Anderson, p. 476-481; Backman
2 October	4 October	6 October
Trends in Prejudice T: p. 109-115 E: Radio Project, Due 10/9	Contact Between Groups T: p. 115-121 Resurgence of Segregation R: Orfield et al, p. 16-20	Modern Racism and Sexism T: p. 122-135 R: Yamato; p. 89-93
9 October	11 October	13 October
Intersection of Race and Class R: Gans, p. 17-21. Video: <i>People Like Us</i>	Exam I: Review Session	EXAM I

PART III EVOLUTION OF DOMINANT-MINORITY RELATIONS IN THE US		
<p>16 October</p> <p>The Origins of Slavery T: p. 147-157 Slavery in New York R: Berlin & Harris, p. 1-27</p>	<p>18 October</p> <p>Minority Group Status T: p. 163-172; 175-177 Lynching in 19th Century WI R: Pfeifer, p. 327-339 E: Allied Dr. Project, Due 10/30</p>	<p>20 October</p> <p>Comparing Minority Groups T: 172-174 Exporting US Race Concepts R: Dominguez, p. 369-399</p>
<p>23 October</p> <p>Impact of Industrialization T: p. 181-196 Old Immigration and White Ethnic Groups T: p. 425-432</p>	<p>25 October</p> <p>Post-Industrial Society T: p. 196-204 New Immigration T: p. 385-387; 393; 411-417</p>	<p>27 October</p> <p>Institutional Discrimination T: p. 204-207; 208-211 Arab Americans T: p. 398-406 R: Howell & Shryock, p. 443-462</p>
PART IV DOMINANT-MINORITY RELATIONS IN THE US TODAY		
<p>30 October</p> <p>American Indians: T: p. 261-272 R: Indian Population, p. 1-12 E: Wisconsin Tribes Project</p>	<p>1 November</p> <p>Self-Determination T: p. 272-280; 295-298 Indian Casinos R: Pace, p. 8-9</p>	<p>3 November</p> <p>Contemporary Relations T: p. 280-294 American Indians in the Media R: Miller & Ross, p. 245-259</p>
<p>6 November</p> <p>African Americans: Challenging Segregation T: p. 223-232; 255-257</p>	<p>8 November</p> <p>Post-Civil Rights Era T: p. 232-238; 242-253 R: Williams, p. 382-388</p>	<p>10 November</p> <p>'Internal Group Divisions R: Jackson & Cothran, p. 576-604</p>
<p>13 November</p> <p>Impact of Hurricane Katrina R: Lavelle & Feagin, p. 52-66 Video: <i>When the Levees Failed</i></p>	<p>15 November</p> <p>Exam II: Review Session</p>	<p>17 November</p> <p>EXAM II</p>
<p>20 November</p> <p>Diversity of Minority Groups T: p. 499-504 Flexible Ethnicity R: Marrow, p. 427-464</p>	<p>22 November</p> <p>Post-Modernity and Dominant-Minority Relations in CA R: Johnson, p. 381-401 No Class Meeting</p>	<p>24 November</p> <p>No Class: Holiday</p>
<p>27 November</p> <p>Latino Americans: Colonization to Immigration T: p. 303-322</p>	<p>29 November</p> <p>Contemporary Relations T: p. 324-335; 340-343 Bilingualism R: Taking Sides, p. 170-179</p>	<p>1 December</p> <p>Culture and Identity Festivals and Ethnic Labeling R: Carlson, p. 7-16 R: Holleran, p. 352-469</p>

