

RACIAL AND ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES
Chicano/Latino Studies 148 * Sociology 167

Chc/Lat
Spring '05
148

SPRING 2005

Professor Cynthia Feliciano
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Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:20, SSL 129

Course Overview:

This course examines central questions and issues in the field of race and ethnicity in the United States. In particular, we will focus on the concepts of "race," and "ethnicity," as social constructions. We will also focus on the concept of "assimilation," which is central to American understandings of racial and ethnic relations. We will look at assimilation, race and ethnicity in relation to the experiences of multiple groups, including White Europeans, Asians, and Blacks, but will particularly emphasize how these concepts apply to Latinos in the United States.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course, I hope that you will:

- 1) Have a solid understanding of some of the major issues and concepts concerning racial and ethnic relations in the United States
- 2) Have improved and developed your skills in thinking and reading critically, as well as expressing your thoughts verbally and in writing.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and participation: It is absolutely imperative that students attend every class and come prepared to discuss the readings for that day. To facilitate student engagement with the readings, each student will sign up to present on two of the readings for the class with another student. The presentations, which should be about 5-10 minutes, should provide brief summaries of the readings and pose questions for the class to discuss.

2) Weekly critical short answers: At the end of most classes, I will provide you with one or more questions to answer from the readings assigned for the next class. These questions

are designed to help you to engage the readings in a systematic and critical manner. Your answers should be concise and bullet-pointed. By bullet-pointing your answers, you maximize succinctness. Your answers should be no longer than 1/3 to 1/2 a page.

NOTE: NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you have to miss class, the assignment must be emailed to me *prior* to the beginning of the class.

3) Midterm Exam: The in-class, blue book exam will be based upon readings and lectures during the first half of the quarter and will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.

4) Take-Home Final: The assignment will be handed out the last day of class and due one week later.

NOTE: LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR GRADED.

Respect: Some of the issues we are going to discuss in this course are sensitive topics that may evoke emotional feelings in us because they relate to our own identities and experiences. I view this course as a safe environment where students can express their views and openly debate these issues. However, mutual respect for each other's differences is key to productive discussion. Please be respectful of others. I look forward to a rewarding quarter.

Grading:

The grading of the course will be as follows:

- 30% mid-term exam
- 30% final exam
- 20% weekly critical answers
- 20% attendance/participation/presentation

Required Texts:

Waters, Mary. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*

Davis, James. *Who is Black? One Nation's Definition*

Rodriguez, Clara. *Changing Race: Latinos, the census, and the history of ethnicity in the United States*

Course Reader: available for purchase during class the first week of class. Readings from the course reader are marked with an *.

Week 1:

April 5: First day of class: no readings

April 7: Basic Concepts: Race and Ethnicity

* Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 1998. "Mapping the Terrain: Definitions" Chapter 2 in *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World* pp.15-38

Week 2:

April 12: Overview: The U.S. Racial Structure

Rodriguez, Chapter 1 "Latinos in the U.S. Race Structure"
Davis, Chapter 1 "The Nation's Rule"

April 14: The Social Construction of Race

Rodriguez, Chapter 2, "The Idea of Race"
Davis, Chapter 2, "Miscegenation and Beliefs"

Week 3:

April 19: FILM: *Understanding Race (Discovery Channel, 2004)*

April 21: Assimilation and European Ethnics

* Gordon, Milton. Chapter 3. "The Nature of Assimilation," in *Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion, and National Origins*
Waters, Chapter 1, "Introduction"
Waters, Chapter 2, "Flux and Choice in American Ethnicity" (16-51)
(Skim Chapters 3-6)

Week 4:

April 26: Ethnic Options? Europeans vs. Latinos

Waters, Chapter 7, "The Costs of a Costless Community" (147-168)
Rodriguez, Chapter 3, "Stories of Self-Definition"

April 28: Historical Constructions: Race and the U.S. Census

Rodriguez, Chapter 5, "The Shifting Color Line" (pp 87-105)
Rodriguez, Chapter 7, "The 'Other Race' Option" (pp 129-152)

Week 5:

May 3: Historical Constructions: Racial Boundaries for Blacks

Davis, Chapter 3, "Conflicting Rules" (pp 31-50)
Davis, Chapter 4, "The Rule Becomes Firm" (pp 51-80)

May 5: Historical Constructions: Racial Boundaries for Blacks, continued

FILM: *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*

Davis, Chapter 6, "Black Acceptance of the Rule" (pp 123-139)
Davis, Chapter 7, "Ambiguities, Strains, Conflicts, and Traumas" (pp 141-169)

Week 6:

May 10: MIDTERM EXAM

May 12: Comparative Perspectives

Rodriguez, Chapter 6, "Race in the Americas" (pp 106-125)
Davis, Chapter 5, "Other Places, Other Definitions" (pp 81-122)

Week 7:

May 17: The Assimilation of Contemporary Immigrant Groups

FILM: *Race: the Power of an Illusion, Part 3: The House We Live In*

May 19: The Assimilation of Contemporary Immigrant Groups

* Yancey, George. Chapter 2, "How to Become White" in *Who is White? Latinos, Asians, and the New Black/Nonblack Divide* pp 27-62.

* Huntington, Samuel. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy*. March/April. Issue 141. (pp 30-46)

* Brooks, David. 2004. "The Americano Dream" OpEd. *New York Times*. February 24.

Week 8:

May 24: Segmented Assimilation

* Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993. "The New 2nd Generation—Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Vol. 530 (5): 74-96.

May 26: Pan-ethnicity

* Espiritu, Yen Le. 1992. "Ethnicity and Panethnicity." Chapter 1 in *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. Pp. 1-18

* Oboler, Suzanne. 1995. "Hispanics? That's What They Call Us." Chapter 1 in *Ethnic Labels, Latino Lives: Identity and the Politics of (Re)Presentation in the United States*. Pp 1-16.

Week 9:

May 31: Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism

FILM: Who Killed Vincent Chin?

June 2: Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism

* Ojito, Mirta. 2001 "Best of Friends, Worlds Apart." Chapter 2 in *How Race is Lived in America*. Pp 23-39.

* Forman, Tyrone A. 2004. "Color-Blind Racism and Racial Indifference: The Role of Racial Apathy in Facilitating Enduring Inequalities." Chapter 3 in *The Changing Terrain of Race and Ethnicity* edited by Maria Krysan and Amanda E. Lewis. Pp 43-66

* Feagin, Joseph R. 1991. "The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiblack Discrimination in Public Places" *American Sociological Review* 56: 101-116.

Week 10:

June 7: Future Trends in U.S. Race Relations

Rodriguez, Chapter 8, "Redefining Race in 2000" (pp 153-176)

Davis, Chapter 8, "Issues and Prospects" (pp 171-187)

June 9: Future Trends in U.S. Race Relations II

* Lee, Jennifer and Frank D. Bean. 2003. "Beyond Black and White: Remaking Race in America." *Contexts*. Vol. 2(3): 26-33.

* Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. "From bi-racial to tri-racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27(6): 931-950.

* Yancey, George. Chapter 5, "The Changing Significance of 'Latino' and 'Asian'" in *Who is White? Latinos, Asians, and the New Black/Nonblack Divide* pp 125-147.