

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sociology 666
Racial and Ethnic Demography
Fall 2007
Call #6005

Professor

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Critical Demography (CD) website:www.albany.edu/~hdh/criticaldemography

Office Hours

T 4:15-5:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Class Meetings

T 5:45-8:35 p.m.
BA 210

“In sociology, we think that we lay bricks until someone comes along, huffs and puffs, and demonstrates that we were only laying straw.”

--*Hayward Derrick Horton, July 9, 1996.*

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an in-depth understanding of the relationship of social and demographic phenomena relative to racial and ethnic populations. Specifically, the course emphasizes the nature of the social structure and how it differentiates between dominant and subordinate populations in society. Thus, population size, structure, distribution, change and policies will be placed in the context of the prevailing racial order. Consequently, the concept *racism* will be central to the analyses presented. Moreover, the course introduces the paradigm *critical demography* to facilitate an understanding and analyses of contemporary demographic trends relative to race and ethnicity in the United States and throughout the world. Finally, students will have an opportunity to analyze data from the U.S. Census relative to racial and ethnic populations.

Texts: Anderson, Margo J. and Stephen E. Fienberg. 1999. Who Counts? The Politics of Census-Taking in Contemporary America.

Bean, Frank D. and Gillian Stevens. 2003 America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity.

Lieberson, Stanley. 1980. A Piece of the Pie: Blacks and White Immigrants Since 1980.

- Perlmann, Joel and Mary C. Waters. 2002. The New Race Question. How the Census Counts Multiracial Individuals.
- Riley, Nancy E. and James McCarthy. 2003. Demography in the Age of the Postmodern.
- Roberts, Dorothy. 1997. Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty.
- Waters, Mary C. 1999. Black Identities: West Indian Dreams and American Realities.
- Zuberi, Tukufu. 2001. Thicker than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie.

Course Requirements:

A. Research Paper. A paper on a topic of your choosing within the broad area of racial and ethnic demography is required. The paper must meet the following standards:

1. A 2-3 page *proposal* for the paper must be submitted and approved prior to working thereon. **Deadline: September 24, 2007;**
2. ASR format;
3. 15-20 pages in length (excluding references, tables, figures);
4. **Deadline for Paper: November 20, 2007.**

B. Group Presentations: Students will be organized into groups for the purpose of presenting and leading discussions on the assigned books.

C. Paper Presentation: Each student will be responsible for making an oral presentation of her/his research paper.

D. Weekly Write-up: Students will write a 2-3 page summary of their weekly readings. These must be placed on WebCT *prior* to each class meeting for credit.

E. Prerequisites: This is a Ph.D. level special topics course in sociology. Consequently, it is expected that students have already taken, at a minimum, one graduate course in demography. This background is necessary to gain full benefit of what this course has to offer. Students without this background should consult with the professor as to the advisability of their remaining in the course.

Grading

Research Paper	25%
Group Presentation	25%
Paper Presentation	25%
Weekly Write-up	25%

Course Outline

I. Introduction: The Critical Demography Paradigm

Riley & McCarthy. 2003. Demography in the Age of the Postmodern (in its entirety).

Roberts. 1997. Killing the Black Body (in its entirety).

Horton, Hayward Derrick. 2002. "Rethinking Diversity: Conceptual and Theoretical Challenges for Racial and Ethnic Demography" (CD website)

Horton forthcoming "Toward A Critical Demography of Race and Ethnicity: Introduction of the 'R' Word." CD website

Horton et al. 2000. "Lost in the Storm: The Sociology of the Black Working Class, 1850-1990." American Sociological Review 65(1): 128-137.

II. Racism, Racial Statistics and the U.S. Census

Zuberi. 2001. Thicker than Blood (in its entirety)

Anderson & Fienberg. 1999. Who Counts? (in its entirety)

III. The Demography of Racial Identities

Lieberson. 1980. A Piece of the Pie (in its entirety)

Waters. 1999. Black Identities (in its entirety)

IV. Contemporary Issues in Racial and Ethnic Demography

Bean & Stevens. 2003. America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity (in its entirety)

Perlmann & Waters. 2002. The New Race Question (in its entirety)

VII. Student Paper Presentations