STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Sociology 575
Race and Ethnicity
Fall 2008
Class#8914

Professor
Dr. H. D. Horton
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Office Hours
M 4-5:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Class Meetings
M 5:45-8:35 p.m.
AS350

Course Objectives
The purpose of this course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the sociological study of race and ethnicity. Specifically, the goals of the course are to provide: 1) a critique of the sociology of race and ethnicity and the role that racism plays in the generation of knowledge in the field; 2) an in-depth analysis of the issues that impact upon racial and ethnic inequality as presented in sociological research; 3) an opportunity to conduct original research on race, racial inequality and racism in America; and finally 4) to reflect upon and critique contemporary issues that impact race and ethnicity in everyday life in the United States and throughout the world.

Texts:


Bowser, Benjamin P. 2007. The Black Middle Class: Social Mobility and Vulnerability.


**Course Requirements:**

A. **Research Paper:** A paper on the topic of your choosing within the broad area of race and ethnicity is required. The paper must meet the following standards:
   1. ASR format;
   2. The paper must incorporate a considerable amount of the course readings as well as current articles from the top journals in sociology;
   3. A 2-3 page proposal must be submitted prior to beginning work on the paper. This abstract must detail the problem, theory and research methods of your proposed paper. **DEADLINE: September 8, 2008;**
   4. 15-20 pages in length (excluding references, tables and figures);
   5. **DEADLINE FOR PAPER: NOVEMBER 24, 2008.**

B. **Seminar Discussions:** Students will lead discussions on the assigned readings and topics. To facilitate this process, students must post two-page reaction papers on Blackboard prior to the class period.

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

Late papers will lose one letter grade value per day after the established deadline. Allowances for documented medical and personal emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Grading**

- Seminar Participation: 25%
- Reaction Papers: 25%
- Research Paper: 50%
Course Outline

I. Introduction to the Sociology of Racism

A. Required Readings:

Feagin, 2001. Racist America (in its entirety)

Zuberi and Bonilla-Silva, 2008. White Logic, White Methods


B. Recommended Readings:


van den Berghe, Pierre L. 1967. Race and Racism


Bulmer, Martin and John Solomos. 1999. Racism.


II. Theories on Race and Ethnicity

A. Required Readings:

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. Racial Formation in the United States (in its entirety)

Bowser, 2007. The Black Middle Class (in its entirety)


Bonacich, Edna. 1980. “Class Approaches to Ethnicity and Race.” Insurgent Sociologist 10(2) Fall.


B. Recommended Readings:

Myrdal, Gunnar. 1944. An American Dilemma.


III. The Civil Rights Movement and Beyond

A. Required Readings:


B. Recommended Readings:


C. Recommended Viewing: The “Eyes on the Prize” Series on the Civil Rights Movement.

IV. Race, Ethnicity and Contemporary Immigration

A. Required Readings:

Yancey, 2003. Who is White?


B. Recommended Readings:


V. Student Paper Presentations