“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 of racism will be central to the analyses presented. Moreover, the course introduces the paradigm of 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.

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

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


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


III. The Demography of Racial Identities


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)


VII. Student Paper Presentations