Minority Groups
SOC 240 – D001 (4007)

Course Description
4 hours: 4 credits
Social, political, economic, and historical factors affecting minority group status. The roots of prejudice and discrimination; analysis of their psychological and social causes and consequences in modern societies. Emphasis will be placed on a comparison of different cultures in a global context.
Prerequisites: ENG 151, COR 100

Required Text

Learning Objectives

To demonstrate an understanding of the concept of racism.

To demonstrate a critical understanding of race, ethnicity, gender, and other minority group statuses.

To be able to identify examples of racist and other discriminatory practices and structures historically and in the contemporary world.

Assessment Plan

Questions included on an exam, assignment, or survey will assess students’ understanding of the concept of racism.

Questions included on an exam, assignment, or survey will assess students’ ability to demonstrate a critical understanding of race, ethnicity, gender, and other minority group statuses.

Questions included on an exam, assignment, or survey will assess students’ ability to identify historical and contemporary examples of racist/other discriminatory practices and structures.

The number of students answering these questions correctly will be aggregated and calculated as a percentage of the total number of students in the course.
Course Expectations

1. Lateness/absence policy. You are expected to attend every session and arrive on time. Absences and tardiness will adversely affect the course grade.

2. Readings from the textbook.

3. Midterm Examination. Date: June 28, 2017 (30%).

4. Presentation. Prepare a 10-minute presentation in class on a topic relevant to minority groups. The presentation will be evaluated on the relevance of the subject matter and interaction of class to presentation (30%).

5. Final Examination Date: July 19, 2017 (40%).

Grading

Midterm.................................30%
Presentation...........................30%
Final......................................40%
SOC 240 D001 (4007)
Minority Groups Course Reader

The Study of Minorities (Chapter 1)
  The Stranger as a Social Phenomenon
    Similarity and Attraction
    Social Distance
  Perceptions
  Interactions

Minority Groups
  Minority-Group Characteristics

Racial and Ethnic Groups

Ethnocentrism
  In the United States
  In Other Times and Lands
  Eurocentrism and Afrocentrism

Objectivity
  The Dynamics of Intergroup Relations
  Sociological Perspectives

Culture and Social Structure (Chapter 2)
  The Concept of Culture
    The Reality Construct
  Cultural Change
    Cultural Diffusion
    Subcultures
  Structural Conditions
  Stratification

Social Class
  Class Consciousness
  Ethnicity and Social Class
  Blaming the Poor or Society?

Intergroup Conflict
  Cultural Differentiation
  Structural Differentiation
  Ethnic Stratification
  Is There a White Culture?

Prejudice and Discrimination (Chapter 3)

Prejudice
  The Psychology of Prejudice
  The Sociology of Prejudice
  Stereotyping
  The Influence of Television

The Influence of Advertising and Music
  Can Prejudice Be Reduced?
  Diversity Training
Discrimination
   Levels of Discrimination
   Relationships between Prejudice and Discrimination
   Social and Institutional Discrimination
      The Affirmative-Action Controversy

Intergroup Relations (Chapter 4)
   Minority-Group Responses
      Ethnic and Racial-Group Identity
      Avoidance
      Deviance
      Defiance
      Acceptance
   Consequences of Minority-Group Status
      Negative Self-Image
      The Vicious-Circle Phenomenon
      Marginality
      Middleman Minorities
   Dominant-Group Responses
      Segregation
      Hate Groups
      Hate Crimes
      Exploitation

North and West European Americans (Chapter 5)
   Sociohistorical Perspective
   The Colonial Period
      Cultural Diversity
      Religious Intolerance
   The Early National Period
   The Pre-Civil War Period
   Structural Conditions
   English Americans
      The Departure
      Culture Shock
   Dutch Americans
   German Americans
   Irish Americans
   Scandinavian Americans
   Social Realities for Women

The Native Americans (Chapter 7)
   Sociohistorical Perspective
   Early Encounters
   Values and Social Structure
   Stereotyping
   Changes in Government Policy
   Present-Day Native American Life
Population
Education
Employment
Health Concerns
Housing
Cultural Impact
American Assimilation

Religious Minorities (Chapter 12)
Sociohistorical Perspective
Catholic Americans
Jewish Americans
Mormon Americans
Amish Americans
Religion and U.S. Society
Assimilation
Bibliography


