

Soc. 109 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity

Spring 2002

Dr. Lakshmi Srinivas

Office: PNE 333

Office hours: Thursdays 12-1 and by appointment

Class meets: Mon., Thurs, 1:30-2:40. PNE 349.

Course objectives:

This class will introduce sociological approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. The first few weeks will focus on selected issues and debates. Later in the semester we will explore immigration and ethnicity. The strength of the sociological approach is its emphasis on the study of social phenomena within broad social and historical contexts. Sociology has been preoccupied with the study of social change, with the human search for meaning, understanding, community and order. Sociological studies of ethnicity and race has to do with how people see themselves and others, how social and historical forces shape their meaning-making and actions. Our larger objective in this class is to develop a sociological eye and to analyze and think critically about the issues at hand. To that end we will discuss theory and method and engage with a variety of materials including visual materials.

Required texts and readings:

Books are available in college bookstore (you can always purchase books online at Barnes and Noble.com, Amazon.com or used books at very reasonable prices through half.com. They will be mailed to you directly).

1. Majority and Minority by Norman B. Yetman
2. Between Women by Judith Rollins
3. The Huddled Masses by Alan Kraut

Copies of readings not in these books will be made available in class. They are marked in syllabus with an H. Please note that the syllabus may change as the semester progresses.

Course policies and requirements:

Final exam: 30%

Midterm: 30% (2 quizzes of 15 points each. Dates for

quizzes will be announced a week in advance).
2 Reaction papers 30% total
Attendance: 10%

Regular attendance is very important. Late assignments will receive a grade penalty. Make-up exams will not be given except for a medical emergency.

If you have any disabilities which need to be accommodated please see me as soon as possible.

Syllabus

Week 1: Jan. 28 -31 Introduction.
Census 2000, population composition by race (H)
The Economist: Hispanics in America (H)
Video: The Issue is Race

Week 2: Feb. 4 -7 The issue is race (contd.)
Cornell and Hartmann. Ch. 2 Mapping the terrain.
Definitions. Ethnicity and Race. (H)

Week 3: Feb. 11-14.
Michael Omi and Howard Winant. Racial Formation (H)
Cornell. Land, Labor and Group Formation. Blacks and Indians in the United States

February 18th No classes. President's Day

Asian Americans

Week 4: Feb. 19 -21.
Jeili Li. Exploring Asian Americans. The Myth of the "Model Minority" and the Reality of their Lives. (H)
Video: No Hop Sing, No Bruce Lee

Week 5: Feb. 25-28
Joane Nagel. Constructing ethnicity
Video: Blue Collar and Buddha

Week 6: March 4-7
The Huddled Masses. Chs. 1-2
The Huddles Masses. Ch. 4-5

Week 7: March 11 Reaction paper 1 due
Can outsiders successfully research insiders?
J.Solomon. Skin Deep. The Washington Post. Oct. 30 1994.
(H)

Robert Merton and Ann Oakely (H)
Chapter on method from Rollins

BREAK March 15-24

Week 8: March 25-28
Portes and Zhou. The New Second Generation.
TBA

Week 9: April 1-4
Gordon. Assimilation in America. Theory and Reality
Domestic service: the intersection of race, class and
gender
Steinberg. Why the Irish became Domestic workers and the Italians
and Jews did not. (H)
Katzman. Ch. Domestic Service. (H)
Romero. Life as a Maid's Daughter. (H)

Week 10: April 8-11
Video: Yes ma'am
Rollins book

April 15th No Classes

Week 11: April 18th
Hansen. The Creation of a Gender Role: The Male Domestic
Servant (H)
Video: TBA

Week 12: April 22-25
Reaction paper 2 due
Wilson: The declining significance of race
Feagin. The continuing significance of race

The Spatial Component

Week 13: April 29-May 2
James. The Racial Ghetto as a Race-Making Situation.
Marcuse. The Ghetto of Exclusion and the Fortified Enclave.
(H)

Week 14: May 6
Readings handout

Final exam