

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Criminal Justice/Sociology Program

Course Syllabus*
CJ/SOC 380.01W Cultural and Ethnic Minorities
Web Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2010.

* Subject to amendment

I. Locator Information:

Professor: **Dr. Leonard W. Peck**
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Office: Academic Bldg. 134N
Office Hours: Mon. 1:00 – 6:00 pm
Tues. 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Wed. 1:00 – 6:00 pm
Or drop by or make an appointment

Phone: (903) 223-3011
Fax: (903) 223-3107
E-Mail: leonard.peck@tamut.edu. I answer class email 2-3 times per week on a triage basis (i.e. emergencies first).

II. Course Description:

This course will explore the ways in which ethnicity, culture, race, class and gender influence people's individual and social life. It will include relevant theories in the field and examine several ethnic and cultural minorities in the United States. The course includes discussion of minority status to crime and justice issues. Prerequisite: SOCI 1301.
(Cross-listed with SOC 380.)

III. Course Objectives:

Relevant to the above, this course seeks the following objectives:

1. Identify the various ethnic groups in the United States and in Texas.
2. Discuss the unique experiences of each ethnic group in America.
3. Discuss the factors that influence race relations in America.
4. Discuss major sociological perspectives on the issue of race and race relations.
5. Discuss the social, economic, and political implications of being a minority or a majority in America.

IV. Student Learner Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students would acquire the ability to:

1. Understand the heterogeneity of the American society.
2. Understand the experiences of each ethnic group in America.
3. Understand majority/minority relations and the issues that affect such relations in America.
4. Apply sociological theories to the study of race and ethnicity.
5. Be sensitive to issues that still affect segments of the population in contemporary America.

V. Textbooks:

The required text for this course is: *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*, 2009 (Ninth Edition) by Vincent N. Parrillo (ISBN# 0-205-58557-4).

VI. Schedule of Activities and Reading List:

Week 1: Introduction of course
Chapter One—Introduction to the Study of Ethnic Minorities

Week 2: Chapter Two—Culture and Social Structure

Week 3: Chapter Three—Prejudice and Discrimination
Chapter Four—Inter-group Relations

Week 4: Chapter Five—Northern and Western Europeans

Week 5: Chapter Six—Southern, Central, and Eastern Europeans

Week 6: Chapter Seven—Native Americans

Week 7: Review and Mid-term Examination

Week 7: Chapter Eight—East and Southeast Asian Americans

Week 8: Chapter Nine—Other Asian and Middle Eastern Americans

Week 9: Chapter Ten—Black/African Americans

Week 10: Chapter Eleven—Hispanic Americans

Week 11: Chapter Twelve—Religious Minorities

Week 12: Chapter Thirteen—Women as a Minority Group

Week 13: Chapter Fourteen—Gays, People with Disabilities, and the Elderly

Week 14: Chapter Fifteen—The Ever Changing American Mosaic

Week 15: Review and Final Examination

VII. Technology Requirements:

Students must have access to a late model computer with an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Students must have access to a reliable e-mail service and must be able to receive and send e-mails with attachments. The e-mail software and the internet browser must be current and must be compatible with Blackboard, Microsoft Word, and Adobe/Acrobat Reader/Writer for pdf files

Note: The university computer labs provide students with computers that have all of the above technology requirements. The labs have attendants to assist students who need help and are open on the weekends.

VIII. Course Requirements:

Basic Requirements:

For the convenience of all students, there will be no virtual class sessions but, students must participate in all class discussions (graded or not), read assigned chapters of the text in advance, complete all class assignments on time (graded or not), take all scheduled examinations, and must demonstrate knowledge of course content.

Class Ethics:

Course materials and website can only be used for course purposes by students who are formally enrolled in the course. The professor expects that students enrolled in this course will conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the duration of the course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and copying or undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary action. The student is responsible for reading and understanding the University Policy on Academic Honesty.

Due Dates:

The due dates of all course requirements and activities will be posted on the course web-site/calendar. It is therefore, the student's responsibility to periodically check the course web-site/calendar to be sure that he or she is not missing any course requirements. It should also be noted that the professor retains the authority to modify/change any aspect of the course and/or due dates. Such modifications/changes will be communicated via e-mails and posted on the course web-site.

Examinations:

There will be two examinations (a mid-term and a final) in this course. Each test will be time-sensitive. Once posted, students will have a specific time frame to complete each and return to me as an attachment to e-mail. If the time allotted for the test expires, students will not be able to access the test any longer. It is expected that students will use the e-mail feature in blackboard. But, they can also be sent via Microsoft outlook. Those who choose to use other e-mail formats should send a copy to themselves to ensure that the e-mail went through and that it contained the appropriate attachments. An announcement will be posted on the course web-site to alert students about each test. Make-up examinations will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Dates of examinations can be changed at the professor's discretion.

Assignments:

There will be no term paper in this class. Alternatively, students will be required to respond to **TEN (10)** questions drawn from specific issues covered in the text. Once posted, students will have limited time to respond to the issue(s) via the assignment feature of blackboard. If no response is posted within the allotted time, access to the assignment will be blocked. Please note that all assignments are graded (**10 points each**) and there will be no make-up assignments.

Discussions:

There will be **FOUR (4)** time-sensitive discussion questions. Once posted, students will be required to first respond to the question and then react to the postings of at least two other students within the time allowed for that specific discussion question. Access to the discussion question will terminate once the time expires. Each discussion question is worth 25 points.

IX. Course Evaluation:

Mid-term Exam.	150 points
Final Exam.	150 points
Assignments	100 points
Discussions	100 points
Total	500 points

X. Grade Assignment:

450 to 500 points	A
400 to 449 points	B
350 to 399 points	C
300 to 349 points	D
Less than 300 points	F

XI. Other Relevant Information:

Disability Accommodation:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

XIII. References:

Gallagher, Charles A. (2006). *Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity* (Third Edition). Boston, Massachusetts: McGraw Hill Publishing Company.

Higginbotham, Elizabeth and Margaret L. Andersen. (2006). *Race and Ethnicity in Society: The Changing Landscape*. Belmont, California: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing.

Kerbo, Harold R. (2003). *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective*. Boston, Massachusetts: McGraw Hill Publishing Company.