

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Sociology Degree Program
CJ/SOC 380 (Ethnic and Cultural Diversity)
3 Semester Credit Hours
Web Course Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2016

I. Locator Information:

Professor: Dr. Godpower O. Okereke
Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Office: 203 UC
Office Hours: 9:00–10:30 am Mondays & Wednesdays
8:30–9:00 am Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:00–2:30 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
Also available by appointment
Phone: (903) 223-3163
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II. Course Description: Course reviews the originalities and experiences of the various national, ethnic, cultural, religious, and social groups that make up what is known today as the United States of America. Attention is also paid to how such originalities and/or experiences impact or influence contemporary realities for each group.

III. Course Objectives: Relevant to the above, this course seeks the following objectives:

1. Outline the dynamics of inter-group relations.
2. Discuss the significance of the concept of race, ethnicity, culture, prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination in shaping inter-group relations.
3. Discuss the social, economic, and political implications of being a member of a “minority group” or a “majority group” in a race conscious society.
4. Discuss the unique experiences of each immigrant, ethnic, cultural, religious, social and/or nationality group in America.
5. Sensitize students to the experiences of some groups in early America and the possible effects of such experiences.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes: Students who complete this course should be able to:

1. Identify the factors that influence inter-group relations.

2. Differentiate among the concepts of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination.
3. Identify the various immigrant, cultural, ethnic, religious, social, and nationality groups that make up what is today the United States of America.
4. Understand the differential experiences of various “minority groups” in America.

V. Textbooks: The required text for this course is: *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*, 2014 (11th Edition) by Vincent N. Parrillo. ISBN: 13: 978 0 205-97040-7.

VI. Methods of Evaluation: Students will be evaluated using the following instruments:

a. EXAMINATIONS:

There will be two examinations (a mid-term and a final) in this course. The mid-term test will comprise of questions drawn from chapters one through seven which deal with: Inter-Group Relations; Culture; Social Structure; Prejudice and Discrimination; The Consequences of a Minority/Majority Status; and identifies the ethnic originalities and experiences of the groups that comprise what is referred to as the majority group in America today along with the group referred to as “Native Americans.”

The second test will be made up of questions drawn from chapters eight through fifteen which identify the various minority ethnic groups in America with emphasis on the experiences of each group and how such experiences continue to affect their everyday realities in contemporary American society. The final test will also contain questions dealing with other groups that are also referred to as “minority groups” and the experiences of those groups in America and around the world.

Each test will be time-sensitive. Once posted, students will have a specific time frame to access and complete the test. During this period, students will have multiple access to the document. Students must ensure that they save their work after each attempt before logging off. Once the allotted time expires, access to the document will be denied.

An announcement will be posted on the course home page to alert students about each test and other course requirements. There will be no make-up examinations and there will be no extensions on the due dates.

b. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

There is no term paper required in this class. But, there will be 4 discussion questions drawn from the substantive areas of the course for a total of 100 points (25 points each). Once posted, students are required to post an original response to the issues raised and then react to the postings of **at least two other students** on the discussion feature of blackboard. That is, each student will have a minimum of three postings for each discussion (an original response, and at least two reactions to what other students posted).

Note that the original response and the two or more reactions to what other students posted will have different due dates. That is, the original response will have one due date and the reactionary postings will have a different due date. To be considered for full credit, students must post their original response within the time allowed. Original postings made after such date will be counted as late. Late submissions of original entries will have 3 points deducted from their score on the discussion. Note also that you must post an original response before you can see what other students posted. Once the allotted time for the discussion expires, access will be denied. Points are assigned relative to the quality of information contained in each post; the more substantive and comprehensive each posting is, the more points the student will receive. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP DISCUSSIONS.**

c. ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will also be required to answer **Four (4)** 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 denied. Be sure that your responses to the questions are comprehensive, detailed, and substantial. Points are assigned based on the above. **Note too that there will be no make-up assignments.**

VII. Course Outline:

Week 1: Welcome to CJ/SOC 380 and Introduction

Chapter One—The Study of the Concept of Minorities

Week 2: Chapter Two—Culture and Social Structure

Week 3: Chapter Three—Prejudice and Discrimination

Week 4: Chapter Four—Inter-group Relations

Week 5: Chapter Five—Northern and Western European Americans

Week 6: Chapter Six—Southern, Central, and Eastern European Americans

Week 7: Chapter Seven—American Indians (Native Americans)

Mid-term Examination

Week 8: Chapter Eight—Asian Americans

Week 9: Chapter Nine—Middle Eastern and North African Americans

Week 10: Chapter Ten—Black/African Americans

Week 11: Chapter Eleven—Hispanic Americans

Week 12: Chapter Twelve---Religious Minorities
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

Final Examination

VIII. 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.

Student Technical Assistance:

Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37>

If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a tech support request detailing your specific problem here: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php>

Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

Julia Allen (Main contact) 903-223-3154 j.allen@tamut.edu

Frank Miller (alternate contact) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu

Nikki Thomson (alternate contact) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

Course Requirements:

Basic Requirements:

For the convenience of all students, there will be no virtual class sessions but, all students must participate in all class discussions, read assigned chapters of the text in advance, complete and turn in all class assignments on time, 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.

Due Dates:

The due dates for 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 posted on the announcement page of the course and/or communicated via e-mails.

IX. Course Evaluation:

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

X. Grade Assignment:

500 to 450 points	A
449 to 400 points	B
399 to 350 points	C
349 to 300 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

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Students are expected to work independently; two or more students working on one paper and then making copies and turning those in with different names tantamounts to academic dishonesty. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and 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. For additional information, see the university catalog.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana, students are assigned A&M-Texarkana email. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Student are responsible for information sent and received via their university email account and are expected to check their 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.

Drop Policy: To drop this course, a student needs to complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form located on the University website (<http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html>) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. Students must submit the signed and completed form to the faculty member for each course indicated on the form for their signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form is submitted to the Registrar's office for processing either in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), or fax (903-223-3140). Incomplete forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission.