

Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Sociology Degree Program
CJ/SOC 380 (Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in America)
Web-Based Course
Course Syllabus, Fall Semester, 2020

I. Locator Information:

Professor: Dr. Godpower O. Okereke
Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Zoom Office Hrs: 10:00 – 11:00 AM on Mondays
Also available by appointment
E-Mail: Godpower.okereke@tamut.edu

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. Highlight and discuss the unique experiences of each immigrant, ethnic, cultural, religious, social and/or nationality group in America.

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. Highlight the differential experiences of various immigrant 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. Confirmation of Enrollment: Students are required to log-on to the course home within the first week of classes to confirm their enrollment. To do this, you must send a message to the professor stating that you are still enrolled in the course and that you intend to finish the semester. Failure to submit this on-line roster confirmation may result in an **Administrative Drop** from the course. To confirm your enrollment, click on “Course Messages” on the course home page and send a message to me.

VII: COURSE REQUIREMENTS: 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 cover information from: Chapter One-The Study of Minorities; Chapter Two-Culture and Social Structure; Chapter Three-Prejudice and Discrimination; Chapter Four-Inter-group Relations; Chapter Five-Immigrants from Northern and Western Europe; Chapter Six-which discusses the experiences of immigrants from Southern, Central, and Eastern Europe; and Chapter Seven which highlights the experiences of Native Americans.

The Final Test: The final test will be made up of questions drawn from the information in: Chapters Eight-Asian Americans; Chapter Nine-Middle Eastern and North African Americans; Chapter Ten-Black Americans and Other Black Immigrants; Chapter Eleven-Hispanic Americans; Chapter Twelve-Religious Minorities; Chapter Thirteen-Women as a Minority Group; Chapter Fourteen-Gays, People with Disabilities, and the Elderly; Chapter Fifteen-The Ever Changing American Mosaic. These chapters identify various minority groups in America, highlight the experiences of

each group, and present how such experiences affect their everyday realities in contemporary American society.

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/or other course requirements. A message about each test will also be sent to students via the ace-e-mail. **There will be no make-up examinations and there will be no extension of the due dates.**

b. Research Paper; Summary of Findings; & Zoom Presentation:

Each student will choose a topic of research either from the list of topics provided or come up with any topic that deals with the substantive areas of the course.

The student will research the topic thoroughly, write a two-page summary of the major findings, and will prepare a 5-8 minutes power-point Zoom presentation that will highlight the following:

a. Major findings

b. Sociological relevance/implications/importance

c. Researcher's opinion/assessment/evaluation as to why things are the way they are

d. Researcher's suggestions as to what can be done about issue

e. Answers to questions asked

Approval of Topic & Title: Students must have their **topic of interest and title of the paper approved by the professor on or before Wednesday, September 16th, 2020.** **Two (2) point penalty will apply each week thereafter until the student complies with this request.**

Major Findings: A two-page summary of the major findings of the research is due on or before **Wednesday, November 11th, 2020**. Late summaries will be assessed 2 point off each day and will not be accepted after **Wednesday, November 18th, 2020**.

Zoom Presentations: Each student will prepare and make a power-point Zoom presentations that will begin on Wednesday, November 11th, 2020. The Zoom presentations will be between 5-8 minutes and will be made alphabetically. All students are required to be present during all Zoom presentations.

c. ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will also be required to respond to **Four (4)** questions drawn from specific issues covered in the text and/or in the notes posted on blackboard. Once posted, students will have limited time to respond to the issue(s) via the assignment feature of blackboard. **Note that each assignment is worth 25 points.**

If no response is posted within the allotted time, access to the assignment will be denied. I suggest that students write out their responses in word, read through it to ensure that they have responded to ALL parts of the question(s), that they have provided the required number of responses, and that they did so in enough details before uploading their responses to blackboard. Students are encouraged to ask questions when in doubt. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS.**

VIII. 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

Chapter Three—Prejudice and Discrimination

Week 3: Chapter Three—Prejudice and Discrimination

Chapter Four—Inter-group Relations

Week 4: Chapter Five—Northern and Western European Americans

Week 5: Chapter Six—Southern, Central, and Eastern European Americans

Week 6: Chapter Seven—American Indians (Native Americans)

Week 7: Chapter Seven & Review

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

Week 13: Chapter Thirteen—Women as a Minority Group

Week 14: Chapter Fourteen—Gays, People with Disabilities, and the Elderly

Week 15: Chapter Fifteen—The Ever Changing American Mosaic

Review & Final Examination

IX. Disability Accommodations:

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

X. Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. 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 actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

XI. 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.

XII. Drop Policy:

To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete a [Drop/Withdrawal Request Form](#), located on the University Registrar's webpage or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her 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 must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw 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. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the

drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

XIII. Student Technical Assistance:

Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found on the [Online Student Training](#) page on our website.

If you cannot find your resolution there, you can submit a support request by contacting the IT HelpDesk:

Email: helpdesk@tamut.edu

Phone: 903-334-6603

Submit a [Support Request Ticket](#)

Additional student help for Blackboard can be found here: [Blackboard Help for Students](#)

XIV. Technical Requirements:

The following are the minimum computer requirements for online learning:

A computer capable of handling streaming video. A mid-range multi-core CPU should be adequate.

A sound card.

A high speed internet connection preferably directly connected to the computer via a hard-wired Ethernet connection rather than wirelessly connected.

Virus and adware protection software.

Microsoft Word, minimum version 2007 or above.

[Mozilla Firefox](#) browser available free.

The most recent versions of Java, Flash, QuickTime, Adobe Reader, and Shockwave. You can check this in the Firefox browser by visiting:

[Firefox Plugin Check Tool](#)

Please note: some instructors may require the use of a headset with microphone and/or a webcam. If so, the cost of these items is not included in your course fees and will need to be acquired at your own expense.

Blackboard Mobile for iOS and Android Devices

Android and iOS devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:



The Blackboard Mobile App provides limited access to courses, including the ability to read and contribute to discussions, check grades and announcements, access content, read and comment on blogs, reflect in journals, link to your personal Dropbox, and receive push notifications when courses are updated. Limited course features may also be available via your mobile device's browser; however, your mobile device does not replace your personal computer and should not be used as a substitute for one. High stakes assignments, tests, etc. should be completed on your personal computer, and not on your mobile device.

XV. Students with Federal Loans and/or Grants:

Students who have federal loans and grants must be aware that participation is monitored in on-line courses. In the event a student withdraws from a course the student will be required to refund all federal funds prorated from the last date of participation. A student's last access to Blackboard would not suffice as participation. The required weekly activity could include a comment to a blog, a discussion board posting, a journal entry, a quiz or exam, a submitted assignment, or other measurable and tracked activity.

XVI. Other Course Expectations:

a. Course 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. Students are expected to do their own work.

b. Course Due Dates:

The due dates for all course requirements and activities will be posted on the course web-site. It is therefore, the student's responsibility to periodically check the course web-site 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 to all students via the ace e-mails.

XVII. Course Evaluation:

Mid-term Exam.	150 points
Final Exam.	150 points
Assignments	100 points
Summary of Research Findings	50 points
Zoom Presentation	50 points
Total	500 points

XVIII. 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