

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
SOC 262.5573 | Fall 2014
A130 | MTWRF 10:30-11:20pm

Instructor: Jennifer Lê
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Office Hours:
11:30-12:20pm Daily
10-10:20am Weds
and by appointment



Course Description and Goals

This course will focus on issues relating race and ethnicity including identity, discrimination, and other social factors. Critical thinking and discussion will be important components of the course.

To make appointments, please go to drle.youcanbook.me or scan the code above. Download a free QR Code Reader from your App Store to scan this as well as those in your textbook.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, successful students should be able to:

- List basic approaches to the study of race and ethnicity;
- Explain the difference between “race” and “ethnicity”;
- Describe race and ethnic relations from a sociological perspective;
- Articulate how race and ethnicity are social constructs;
- Evaluate claims regarding the concept of race;
- Recall key historical and sociological facts regarding race and ethnic groups;
- Contrast the experiences of selected racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.;
- Compare race and ethnic relations in the United States with selected non-U.S. countries; and
- Apply findings of race and ethnic research to one’s own life.

Required Text and Readings

Hartmann, Doug and Chris Uggen. 2014. *Color Lines and Racial Angles*. (H&U in the course calendar)
Senna, Danzy. 1998. *Caucasia*.

Additional readings will be made available on our course Canvas site.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students are allowed to miss TWO class periods without documentation. All other absences must be university excused absences; please review the Bellevue College Student Rules on excused absences. More than two undocumented absence will result in a reduction of your overall grade, taken from your participation score for the course (this includes zeros for each absent day’s participation and an additional one-third of a letter grade reduction if absences total one-third or more of the class sessions). A sign-in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class each day to record attendance.

Classroom Policies

Please silence cell phones before the beginning of class. Students whose cell phones ring in class will be required to answer one oral pop quiz question. Any student who I see using their phones will receive one warning after which they will receive no credit for that day’s class participation (equal to one absence for each offense). Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the class for the rest of the day.

Students are permitted to use computers to take notes if they wish. However, note taking is the **only** activity allowed during class. If any students engage in other activities on their computers during class meetings they will receive a zero for that day’s class participation (equal to one absence for each offense).

As this is a college course, this classroom shall be treated as a professional environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of others. There will be zero tolerance for disrespect.

Course Requirements

Research Paper

You will be required to write a research paper throughout the term. It will be broken up into chunks (problem statement, annotated bibliography, outline, first draft, and final draft. You may write on any topic related to race and ethnicity that you wish. However, the topic should be about a problem or issue you are bothered with, is controversial, or is something that puzzles you. Additional information regarding each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on our Canvas site.

Problem Statement/Question – 10 points

Annotated Bibliography – 25 points

Outline – 20 points

First Draft – 50 points

Peer Review/Edit 1 – 15 points

Peer Review/Edit 2 – 15 points

Final Draft – 100 points

Presentation of Findings – 25 points

Total: 260 points

Online Discussions

(40 total points, 10 points each)

There will be a discussion on Canvas for particular days of the course, as noted on the tentative schedule. The topic will be determined by the instructor. Each student is required to address the prompt in a substantive and thought-provoking manner. Depth of thought and critical thinking should be demonstrated, especially through the use of personal narratives. Material from the readings and lecture should be cited (informal citations are permitted). Further, each student is required to post on two other students' threads. These response posts should offer comments and/or critique as well as ask meaningful questions. Initial posts should be completed the evening it is assigned (by 11:59pm) with response posts completed by each the following day (unless it falls on a Friday in which case it response posts are due Sunday night) at 11:59pm. Responses should also be made to your peers that ask questions on your original thread, without such engagement it will be impossible to receive full credit. A grading rubric will be available on Canvas.

Book Reflections

(60 points total, 10 points each)

During the course of the quarter, we will be reading the novel, *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna. The book is divided into six, roughly equal sections. At the end of each section (as outlined on the schedule), you will need to write reflection paper.

Papers need to include 1) a summary paragraph briefly describing what you have read, 2) a few paragraphs of how this section made you feel about yourself or others (Also, did it expand your understanding of race or of experiences of multiracials? If yes, how?), and finally, 3) an application of course material to what you have read (What concepts relate to this part of the book and how do they relate?).

Papers should be 1-2 pages, double spaced, with correct spelling and grammar, one inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font.

Attendance and Participation

(37 points total, 18.5 for attendance, 9.25 for participation, 9.25 for midterm check in meeting)

Attendance is required. A sign in sheet will go around each class period. You may miss up to 2 classes without penalty. You will be penalized if you have 3 or more unexcused absences (see BC policy regarding excused vs unexcused absences). This penalty includes an overall reduction in grade relative to the number of unexcused absences and an additional 1/3 letter grade reduction if absences total one-third or more of the class sessions.

Participation includes pop quizzes, answering questions when called upon, participating in discussions, and asking insightful and engaging questions related to course material.

- Pop quizzes will occur randomly throughout the term based on the material you are expected to have read for that class day. These quizzes will amount to one-quarter of your participation grade or 2.5% of the overall grade.

Grade Distribution

A ≈ 360-400 points
B ≈ 320-359 points
C ≈ 280-319 points
D ≈ 240-279 points
F ≈ 0-239 points

Note: There will be no curve in this class, including individual assignments. Your grade is what you earn.

Research Paper – 260 points = 65%

Problem Statement/Question – 10 points ≈ 3%

Annotated Bibliography – 25 points ≈ 6%

Outline – 20 points ≈ 5%

First Draft – 50 points ≈ 13%

Peer Review/Edit 1 – 15 points ≈ 4%

Peer Review/Edit 2 – 15 points ≈ 4%

Final Draft – 100 points = 25%

Presentation of Findings – 25 points ≈ 6%

Caucasia Reflections – 60 points ≈ 15%

Discussion Board Posts – 40 points = 10%

Attendance and Participation – 40 points = 10%

To excel in this course, a student should stay on top of course readings. All students are expected to have read the assigned material **before** each class meeting. Attendance is always helpful (and required) to get a better understanding of the material. If you have any questions at all, please utilize my office hours. I want you to do your very best in this course, and I will help all students as much as I can.

Extra Credit

There will be one extra credit opportunity per quarter. Video links will be made available to you about midway through the quarter. A sociological paper must be written in response to the videos.

Papers should be at least 3 pages, double spaced, with correct spelling and grammar, one inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font. The papers will be due **one week** after you watched the video. All papers **must** be submitted through our Canvas course. The last day to turn in extra credit assignments will be December 5, 2014.

Papers will be graded according to the following:

Brief summary (10%); Reaction and Critique (5%); Application to sociology of race and ethnicity (85%)

*Application should be the bulk of the paper

These papers will be worth up to 15 points. You are only allowed one attempt. These points are added onto a student's total points for the course. No late work will be accepted without a pre-approved reason.

Late Policy

All missed assignments and exams must be pre-approved by the instructor PRIOR to the due date. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor and must occur **before** the due date. Any missed assignments or exams not pre-approved by the instructor must accompany a University-approved excuse in order for a make-up or extended due date to be given. Unapproved absences that result in missed assignments or zeros **cannot** be made up.

Tentative Schedule

HOW TO READ THE SCHEDULE BELOW:

Day of the Week

Topic

Reading Due

Assignment Due

Week One – September 22-26

M	T	W	R	F
Intro to the class	What is race? Soc. Imagination	Race in America	Ozawa, Thind	Plessy, Phipps
	H&U Intro and pg. 45-47	H&U 1	Haney Lopez	Plessy v Ferguson, Phipps

Week Two – September 29-October 3

M	T	W – Online	R – Online	F – Online
Race Power of an Illusion	Race Power of an Illusion	Colorblindness	Affirmative Action Policies	New Jim Crow
Senna 1-62	No reading	H&U 11	Bonilla-Silva	H&U 12
Reflection 1 DUE		Discussion DUE	Responses DUE	Discussion DUE Problem Statement DUE (Responses Due SUNDAY)

Week Three – October 6-10 – Theories of Race

M – Online	T – Online	W	R	F
Discrimination	Discrimination	Theories	Theories	Theories
H&U 5	No Reading	Winant	Lyman	Feagin
Discussion DUE	Responses DUE			

Week Four – October 13-17 – Racial Identity

M	T	W	R	F
What are you?	Discrimination	Discrimination Bike Video	Film - Hairspray	Film - Hairspray
Markus, Senna 63-131	Pager	H&U pg. 189-190	No reading	No reading
Reflection 2 DUE				Annotated Bibliography DUE

Week Five – October 20-24 – Racial Groups

M	T	W	R	F
Film - Hairspray	Blacks	NO CLASS	Blacks	Native American/AN
Fredrickson	H&U 2	No reading	Bergin and Cooks	H&U 7
				Outline DUE

Week Six – October 27-31 – Racial Groups

M	T	W	R	F – Online
Native American/AN	Middle Eastern	Middle Eastern	Latino	Latino
Guittar, Senna 135-208	Mango	Alsultany	Abrego	H&U 4
Reflection 3 DUE				Ch 4 Discussion DUE (Responses Due SUNDAY)

Week Seven – November 3-7

M	T	W	R	F
Jewish	Jewish	Asian	Asian	White
Kakhnovets + Wolf	Gordon	Chang	H&U 3	H&U 6
				First Draft DUE

Week Eight – November 10-14

M	T	W	R	F
“White Like Me” Tim Wise	NO CLASS	Multiracials	Sports	Peer Review Workday
McDermott, Senna 209-289	No reading	Elam	Friedman	No reading
Reflection 4 DUE				

Week Nine – November 17-21 – Topics

M	T	W	R	F
Sexuality and Intersectionality	Hip Hop	Film - Crash	Film - Crash	Film - Crash
H&U pg.150-151 + Poulson-Bryant	Morgan and Fischer	No reading	No reading	No reading
				Peer Reviews DUE

Week Ten – November 24-28 – Topics

M	T	W	R	F
Food	Criminal Justice	Presentations	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Parasecoli, Senna 293-374	H&U 9	No readin	No reading	No reading
Reflection 5 DUE				

Week Eleven – December 1-5 – Presentations

M	T	W	R	F
Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading	Senna 375-413
				Last day to submit extra credit Reflection 6 DUE

Week Twelve – December 8-10 – Final Exam Week

M	T	W	R	F
NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS		
		Final Paper DUE		

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Disability Resource Center

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Copyright Notice

All documents disseminated by your instructor are under copyright by said instructor. Any re-use or distribution of these materials outside of our classroom without permission is copyright infringement and is considered a crime.

Final Comments

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all that is reasonable and within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please feel free to contact me.