Minorities in American Society
INSTRUCTORS: Claudia Youakim, M.A., ABD
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only
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“Studying sociology should be a liberating experience: The field enlarges our sympathies and imagination, opens up new perspectives on the sources of our own behavior, and creates an awareness of cultural settings different from our own. Insofar as sociological ideas challenge dogma, teach appreciation of cultural variety and allow us insight into the working of social institutions, the practice of sociology enhances the possibilities of human freedom.” – Duneier et al. The Essentials of Sociology.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is a collaborative, student-led effort to understand majority-minority relations as they pattern the experiences, identities, and opportunities of all individuals in U.S. society. While we aim to highlight the role of disparate group experience in creating and perpetuating inequalities, we treat social groupings, including those based on race, ethnicity, nativity, and religion, as deserving of study in their own right. Throughout the semester, we will often turn toward media and toward our own lived experience to supplement our exploration.

Through participation in this course, students will:

- Use the course website and tools in order to communicate with and deliver material to the professor and classmates.
- Remember and understand historical social processes that shape contemporary majority-minority relations
- Identify and reflect on historical social processes impact challenges/or and opportunity, over time
- Understand the contemporary meanings of race and ethnicity in the U.S.
- Understand and compare theoretical perspectives on majority-minority relations
- Identify and critique racial-ethnic ideology found in everyday speech and interaction, entertainment, and social media
- Build healthy relationships with classmates, better articulate and interpret their experiences, and become empowered agents of personal and social change

II. REQUIRED TEXT:

In addition to various multimedia resources, articles, and book chapters, we will use the following text, which may be purchased in advance of the semester online at a lower cost, or during the semester at the UF bookstore at a higher cost.


Please note that there will be some weeks in which you will be required to read articles (or view and use resources) that are made available on the course website and/or resources you find and choose.
III. COURSE POLICIES
A) ATTENDANCE POLICY (See also COURSEWORK):

In a student-led and collaborative course, interacting with peers and completing group and individual assignments on time is how you “show up.” As communication and common ground are key to any successful collaboration, it is the student’s responsibility to keep in contact with peers and to regularly monitor the course website for instructions, assignments and updates.

You will be completing short- and long-term assignments throughout the course, which will require you to be mindful of the following:

- If your life is such that you cannot complete course-related tasks to the same extent on some days of the week as others, you are still expected to participate fully in the course, including replying to peers’ weekly reflections by the deadline.

- This may require that you plan your days/weeks in advance, making sure to work ahead during times when you expect decreased availability and checking in as often as is possible afterward, especially to respond to peers’ weekly reflections.

B) EXAM POLICY: Quiz Policy

There will be weekly quizzes for this course. Students are expected to take quizzes independently, and without class material (e.g. notes, textbook). Quiz questions and responses are not to be shared with your peers.

C) SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

• **Submit on time.** All work must be submitted through the appropriate assignment link on the course website on or before the due date. I do not accept late assignments. Please note that there are NO make-ups for missed quizzes and assignments.

• **Submit college-level work.** You are expected to use academic language and college-level vocabulary and include and cite text whenever necessary, using ASA citation format.

Please PROOFREAD work before submitting to ensure that your work is free of grammatical and structural errors. Once you have submitted your assignments, you cannot resubmit them.

For quick, online guides to using ASA citation formats, please visit:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1/

To learn more about writing sociologically, visit:
http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/sociology/

For a variety of resources and tips on writing, visit:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/

For help with writing at UF, visit:
Follow assignment descriptions carefully. It sounds simple enough, but students often lose valuable points on assignments because they do not read and follow directions carefully. You will be graded on how well you fulfill assignment criteria and follow directions. Familiarize yourself with the rubric for each assignment before completing it, and check your work against the rubric once you complete the assignment.

Save and format your work. Always create your work in a word document or some other savable format prior to posting it to the assignment links. I cannot give credit for work that is lost or not submitted.

D) CONDUCT POLICY:

Please treat this course, your colleagues and your instructor with professionalism and respect.

- You are not required to agree with everything you encounter in this course, but you are required to know the material and confront it academically.
- Pay special attention to the way in which you interact with your colleagues and instructor.
- Express your views in a way that does not insult, blame or put others down.

I reserve the right to temporarily remove any student who participates in harmful or disrespectful behavior from the classroom until matters are resolved with said student.

Making sure that your postings follow the guidelines laid out in the Netiquette Guide will ensure that your participation in this course is working for you rather than against you.

- All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all in-person interactions, e-mail messages, threaded discussions and chats.
- Threads of discussion should continue to the end and students should maintain professional language in posts and responses.
- No personal criticism is permitted and no inappropriate language is permitted.


E) COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to read (or otherwise gain adequate knowledge of the content of) all required resources.

2. Students will complete all assignments.

3. When conducting reflections and peer replies, students will regularly and actively monitor and provide substantive responses to questions and prompts on discussion forums.
F) OFFICE HOURS:

- Ms. Youakim will host office hours by appointment only. Students wishing to arrange an appointment should email me at Cyouaki1@ufl.edu.

- Students who have questions may post their questions to the "General Course Questions" discussion on the course website. Ms. Youakim will monitor the discussion board at least once daily, including weekends. Please allow a 24-hour period for responses.

G) COURSE WORK SCHEDULE:

**Introductions:** Jan 5-Jan 9th

Module 1: Jan 10- Jan 16

Module 2: Jan 17-Jan 23

  Ask a friend: Saturday, Jan 23th by 11:59pm

Module 3: Jan 24-Jan 30

Module 4: Jan 31-Feb 6

  Overview & References: Saturday, Feb 6th by 11:59pm

Module 5: Feb 7-Feb 13

Module 6: Feb 14-Feb 20

Module 7: Feb 21-Feb 27

SPRING BREAK: Feb 28- Mar 5

Module 8: Mar 6-Mar12

  Abstracts of References: Saturday, Mar 12th by 11:59pm

Module 9: Mar 13-Mar 19

Module 10: Mar 20-Mar 26

  Draft on April 2nd by 11:59pm; Peer Review on April 16th by 11:59pm

Module 11: Mar 27-April 2

Module 12: April 3-April 9

Module 13: April 10-April 16

  Final Paper Submission: April 23th by 11:59pm
Due dates/times for the assignments below are located in the Syllabus Schedule. Familiarize yourself early, and remind yourself often. Here is an overview of your grade calculation for the course: Quizzes (33.3%), Reflection papers/Peer Responses (33.3%), Connections Term Paper (33.3%):

Weekly Quizzes (10 points each, 130 points total): Quizzes will be administered weekly. Your first quiz is titled ‘Introductory Quiz.’ You can complete the quiz by following the instruction in the module.

- Each quiz will be worth 10 points, and will contain a mixture of question types, including multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. The quiz will be worth 10 points each, and you have 35 minutes to complete it.
- **DUE DATES:** EACH WEEKLY QUIZ IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY AT 11:59PM
  - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE QUIZ WILL CLOSE ON THURSDAYS AT 11:59PM, AND YOU NEED ABOUT 35 MINUTES TO COMPLETE IT. PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH TIME FOR COMPLETION!

Reflection Papers (10 points each, 130 points total): Beginning the second full week of classes students will have weekly reflection papers. Students will be required to complete a reflection paper AND to reply to one peer’s reflection submission. You will not be allowed to reply to any peer submissions until your reflection paper has been submitted.

- **Introduction Post:** Post an introduction of yourself using the ‘Discussion’ tab entitled “Introductions” in the Getting Started module.
  - *Introductions should include: Name, major, interest in this course, and something interesting you would like to share with the class (e.g. hobby).*
  - **DUE DATES:** EACH WEEKLY DISCUSSION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAYS AT 11:59PM
    - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DISCUSSION WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAYS AT 11:59PM.
  - **THE FIRST DISCUSSION DEADLINE IS ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH BY 11:59PM.**

Connections Paper: A Historical to Contemporary Lens (130 total points):

Your term paper for the class is based on a paper you will develop over the semester. The paper will focus on connecting historical issues to contemporary matters. There will be a few submissions of the term paper throughout the semester. Some of the work required from you will be to peer-review someone else’s work, as your peers will do the same with your paper. Further instruction will be provided for you via Canvas. The future dates of submission will be as follows:

Module 1: Ask a friend Assignment
Module 4: Overview and Reference List
Module 8: Abstracts of References
Module 10: Draft & Peer Review
Module 13: Final Product
V. GRADING SCALE
A  93 % to 100% (361-390 points)
A- 90 to 92 %  (349-360 points)
B+ 87 to 89 %  (338-348 points)
B  83 to 86 %  (322-337 points)
B- 80 to 82 %  (310-321 points)
C+ 77 to 79 %  (299-309 points)
C  73 to 76 %  (283-298 points)
C- 70 to 72 %  (271-282 points)
D+ 67% to 69  (260-270 points)
D  63 to 66%  (244-259 points)
D- 60 to 62 %  (232-243 points)
E  0% to 59%   (0-231 points)

VI. A FINAL NOTE ON SUCCEEDING IN THIS COURSE:
Your learning experience in this course will depend on you keeping up with the readings and assignments. I recommend reading and working daily. For reflection and discussion, you will need to coordinate with your peers—you can’t reply if no one has posted, and your peers can’t reply to you if you haven’t reflected.

Another way to enhance your learning experience throughout this course is to log into the course website often and participate in the "General Course Questions" discussion threads (Located in the Getting Started module) to ask any questions or discuss the material for this course.

Lastly, please let me know if you have any disability-related learning needs so the appropriate arrangements can be made to support your learning.

VII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Disability Services: The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. It is your responsibility to contact the school administration regarding any disability you may have, and to inform me so we can make any necessary arrangements. For more information, see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Academic Honesty: Honor Code. “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” This oath represents UF’s commitment to academic honesty and integrity. “Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication” are violations of the Honor Code. Violators will suffer the consequences. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/honorcodes/honorcode.php
Harassment: UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041

Well-being: The University Counseling & Wellness Center offers counseling services, weekly groups and workshops, consultations, a Self-Help library, training programs, and a Community Provider database. Visit them near the Southwest Recreation Center. Their address is 3190 Radio Road. Their phone number is 352-392-1575. Their website is full of resources:

www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Professional development: Visit the Career Resource Center on the first floor of the Reitz Union: First Floor JWRU. Call them at 392-1601. Or, to find out about upcoming workshops, individual consultation, job fairs, and open positions, visit their website:

www.crc.ufl.edu/

VIII. SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

This syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.