MINORITIES SOC 337U, Section 3
Spring 2017

MWF 10:15-11:20  Office: Cramer Hall 217D
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Instructor: Joshua Bass  Office Hours: MW 11:30-12 & by appointment

TEXTS:
1. The Meaning of Difference, 6th Ed. Rosenblum & Travis
2. Sociology 337U Majority and Minority. Yetman. (This is a customized text containing selected excerpts from a larger book. Some references are made to articles not contained in the customized text we will use. You are not expected to be familiar with those articles.)

Both of these texts are on reserve at the PSU Library.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In this course, we will examine the structuring of relationships between dominant and minority groups in American society with a focus on race and ethnicity. Students will gain an understanding of basic concepts and theoretical approaches to the study of majority/minority group relations, including issues of adaptation, oppression, privilege, and intersectionality. The intellectual focus of the course will be on the social construction of difference.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students should complete the assigned readings prior to each class, bring the textbooks to class and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the readings. Regular attendance will benefit the dedicated student since exams will cover lecture material not included in the texts. Participation in class exercises and discussions will be factored into your grade. D2L will be a small component of this course, so make sure you can log in to your account at https://d2l.pdx.edu/

EXAMS: There will be a midterm and a final exam. Exams will cover readings, lectures, discussions and films. You must take both exams to pass the class. Exams are considered a required part of the class so make your schedule clear NOW for the exams.

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: There will be 3 scheduled in class assignments. These will take the form of group discussions and activities. In class assignments cannot be rescheduled or made up. Each assignment is worth 20 points. There will be a 20 point quiz on Friday of Week 2.

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the standard scale (90%+ = A, etc.)
In class assignments - 60 points, Quiz - 20 points, Midterm exam -100 points, Final exam- 100 points, Participation- 20 points. You start the quarter with 0 points and accumulate them with each successful project.

CLASS CONDUCT: In an effort to make this class a learning environment for everyone, please be considerate of the other students in class. Please try to get to class on time and refrain from leaving before class is done. Turn off all electronic devices. This includes iPods, phones, and laptops. If you want to have a chat with your classmates, do it outside. We will be discussing topics that may be controversial, so it is very important that we all maintain respect for the diversity of opinions represented in the class. This is an educational environment, so ideas may be questioned and critiqued but personal attacks will not be tolerated. If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me immediately to arrange needed supports.
ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of meaningful education and a reflection of maturity and integrity. Portland State University is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty. The Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Copies of the Student Conduct Code may be obtained by contacting 503-725-4422, or by visiting room 433 in Smith Memorial Center. Any class work found to be academically dishonest will receive no points and a referral to the appropriate authority.

CONTACT INFO: The best way to contact me is via email. Please be sure to put “Soc 337” in the subject line so I can find your email amidst the spam. If you don’t include that phrase, I might not read your email. I can also be contacted using Blackboard email.

CLASS SCHEDULE: (subject to change)
R&T= Rosenblum & Travis (R&T 1-3=Readings 1-3, not pages 1-3), Y= Yetman

Week 1 R&T Framework Essay Section I (p. 2-39), Y Ch 1

Week 2 R&T Readings 1-3, R&T Framework Essay Section II (p. 194-220), R&T 12-14, 31, 32, QUIZ on Friday

Week 3 R&T Framework Essay Section III (p. 334-351), R&T 6, 17, Y Ch 3

Week 4 R&T 7, 8, 21, 23, 47, In class assignment day on Friday

Week 5 R&T 36-38, 55, MIDTERM EXAM on Friday, May 5

Week 6 Native Americans: Y Ch 2 p. 39-47, R&T 4, 43, In class assignment day on Friday

Week 7 African Americans: Y Ch 2 p. 47-61, R&T 41, 42, 44-46.

Week 8 Latino Americans: Y Ch 2 p. 61-68, R&T 22. In class assignment day on Friday

Week 9 Asian Americans: Y Ch 2 p. 68-73, R&T 5, 39, No class on Monday, 5/29

Week 10 Loose Ends & Review.

Final Exam is Wednesday, June 14 at 10:15. Please plan accordingly.