Course Syllabus
Sociology 337U-001: Minorities
Summer Session I
Monday-Thursday 9:15-11:35am
Cramer Hall Room 250

Instructor: Michelle L. Holliday, M.P.H.
Email: mlh8@pdx.edu *
Office Hours: By appointment, Cramer Hall Room 263

* Please include “Soc 337” in the subject heading for all course emails.

Course Description: This course provides an overview of the history and development of racial and ethnic groups in the United States. With a focus on Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans, this course will examine the role that ethnic and racial diversity have on how groups are formed and how groups interact with one another. Concepts such as prejudice, discrimination, racism, and white privilege will also be examined and discussed.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the difference between race and ethnicity
- Identify the four main minority groups
- Discuss the significance of minority and dominant group conflict
- Examine and develop an understanding for the impact of racial and ethnic diversity in your daily life.
- Assess the role of prejudice, discrimination, and racism on individual and group experiences in the United States.
- Describe the role that historical experiences with race and ethnicity have on our present understanding of racial and ethnic diversity in the United States.

Course Format/Student Expectations: This course is a hybrid lecture/seminar format. Critical thinking is a critical aspect of this course. Students are not only expected to prepare for each class period, but also contribute to class discussion each week. Please be sure to read all assigned readings before coming to class. Reading is the first step to succeeding in this course. The material that you will engage with each week can be difficult to understand at first. I would recommend that you read the assigned readings before class each week and
then take notes on the readings after class. In addition, I would encourage you to form peer study groups early on in the course.

Powerpoint presentations will be uploaded to the course D2L website before lecture each week. You can access your D2L account at d2l.pdx.edu. Aside from lecture slides and pdf readings, there will be minimal use of D2L in this course.

**Respect for your colleagues:** In this course we will be discussing sensitive topics that may lead to intense discussions and could make some students feel uncomfortable. Please listen to your colleagues during class discussion and be sure to respond to everyone’s comments with respect. As long as we enter into this course with these values in mind, everyone should benefit from lively discussions.

**Required Textbook:**


**Additional Readings:**

Additional **required** readings will be uploaded to D2L as PDF attachments each week. Please be sure to read assigned readings prior to class.

**Writing Resources:** The Writing Center at PSU offers a variety of resources for students seeking to strengthen their writing skills or who would like assistance with writing projects. The Writing Center is located in Cramer Hall Room 188 and can be contacted at (503) 725-3570 for additional information.

**Disability Resources:** The Disability Resource Center (DRC) at PSU strives to ensure that all students have an equitable and successful experience on campus. In the classroom, DRC offers note taking accommodations, in addition to test taking accommodations upon student request. If you have not already, please register with the DRC and make sure to contact me during the first week of class if you need additional assistance with test taking or other resources pertaining to the classroom. The DRC is located in Smith Memorial Union, room 116 and can be contacted via email at drc@pdx.edu or via phone (503) 725-4150.
Academic Integrity: As an active participant in your personal learning and enrichment through pursuing this course at Portland State University, it is my expectation as your instructor that the work you submit is in fact reflective of your personal time and effort. Academic integrity is a staple of higher education and a core value at PSU. Cheating and/or plagiarism are not only serious offenses but will not be tolerated. Class participation, attendance, and all work submitted must be your own. I will not take any violations of the student code of conduct or our contract together through this syllabus lightly. Therefore, any student that is found to be in violation of academic integrity will receive a zero for their assignment or a failing grade for the course. In addition, any resulting offense will be reported to the Dean of Student Life and dealt with accordingly. If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours, in addition to reviewing the Student Code of Conduct.

http://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct

Graded Assignments:

Class Participation: Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one unexcused absence. If you must be absent for any reason, please email me promptly before class. Class participation is highly encouraged as the material learned in this course is easier to understand through conversation.

Student-Led Discussion Sections: Each student will be assigned a set of readings and facilitate a group discussion. These sessions can include an overview of the main points of the readings, and/or an in-class activity geared toward increasing student’s ability to make connections between course readings, lecture and the application of the course concepts to the larger society.

Essays: Each student will complete three essays throughout the quarter. Each essay will synthesize the concepts from the readings each week, including an analysis of the Alexie and Fulbeck, Spickard, and Lennon texts from weeks 2 and 3. Each essay must be 2-4 pages, doubled-spaced, and adhere to paper formatting guidelines. Essays will be turned in via a dropbox folder on D2L.

Critical Analysis Paper: Each student will be required to write a critical analysis of their personal experiences with race and ethnicity based on the readings in the course. You can choose to focus solely on your racial identity, ethnic identity or both. There is no right or wrong answer for this assignment; the main objective is for you to examine how race and ethnicity have impacted your experiences in the United States. You are required to incorporate all relevant course material (videos, lecture, readings, etc.) for this assignment. The critical analysis must be 5-6 pages double-spaced (NOT including references!) and is due on Sunday, July 19th, 2015 in the dropbox folder on D2L.

Turning in course assignments: All assignments must adhere to the following guidelines: 12pt font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins and proper in-text citations with
Breakdown of course grade:

Total course points: 310 Points
Class Attendance: 20 Points
Class Participation: 40 Points (includes student-led discussion)
Essays: 150 points (50 points each)
Critical Analysis Paper: 100 points

Course Schedule* (Subject to change throughout the quarter):

Week 1 (6/22/-6/26): Foundations of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the United States

Read: Schaefer (2014) Chapter 1

In-class activity
Tuesday: Why does Racial and Ethnic Diversity Matter in the United States? : Rachel Dolezal Case Study
Read: Case Study Articles on D2L

Wednesday: Key Concepts in Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Prejudice, Discrimination, and White Privilege
Read: Schaefer (2014) Chapter 2; Bonilla-Silva and Embrick (2007) [D2L], Williams (2006) and Gallagher (2003)[D2L]

Thursday: Key Concepts in Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Prejudice, Discrimination, and White Privilege
Read: Schaefer (2014) Chapter 3; Pager, Bruce and Bonikowski (2009), Bertrand and Mullainathan (2004) [D2L]

Assignments: Essay #1 due Sunday at 8:00pm on D2L

Week 2 (6/29-7/3): Historical and Contemporary Examples of Racial Minority Groups in the United States

Monday: Native Americans & History
Tuesday: Native Americans & Contemporary Society

**Read:** Alexie (2007)

Wednesday: African Americans & History

**Read:** Schaefer (2004) Chapter 6

Thursday: African Americans & Contemporary Society

**Assignments:** Essay #2 due Sunday at 8:00pm on D2L

**Assignments:** Essay #2 due in class on Thursday

**Week 3 (7/6-7/10): Historical and Contemporary Examples of Racial Minority Groups in the United States**

Monday: Latinos & History

**Read:** Schaefer (2014) Chapter 7

Tuesday: Latinos & Contemporary Society

**Read:** Schaefer (2014) Chapter 7

Wednesday: Asian Americans & History

**Read:** Schaefer (2014) Chapter 8; Lui and Geron (2008)

Thursday: Asian Americans & Contemporary Society


**Assignments:** Essay #3 due Sunday at 8:00pm on D2L

**Week 4 (7/13-7/17): Special Topics in Racial/Ethnic Inequality in the United States**

**Assignments:** Final Paper due Sunday at 8:00pm on D2L