# Syllabus – Spring, 2016

**NOTE:** Be sure to read this syllabus over thoroughly and carefully. Some items are explained in more detail in the Week 1 Learning Module. The course syllabus is considered a contract between instructor and students. Your continued enrollment in the course indicates your agreement to abide by the terms of this contract.

## Instructor Information

**Name:** Carol Holdt

**Course Email:** Use D2L email tool – Insert holdtc@d2l.pdx.edu in the To Field. Please include our course id (SOC337U) in the subject line of your email!

**Business email:** holdtc@pdx.edu Please use only if D2L is unavailable.

**Office Hours:** Virtual, using D2L email tool; Weekday evenings; I will respond most evenings, whenever possible.

**Mentors/Teaching Assistants***: Cathryn Anna and Cathleen Sickles - available via D2L email tool  
* See Grading information below regarding the role of our mentors/assistants.

## Course Information

**Course Title, Number:** Minorities, Sociology 337U

**Course Delivery:** This class is fully online and available to you at all times except when systems maintenance is performed (See course homepage for dates and times of outages). There are no face-to-face meetings.

**Workload:**  
As a general rule, in any 4-credit course, students would be expected to spend 4 hours per week in the classroom and about 8-12 additional hours per week doing coursework outside the classroom. Since this class does not meet in the classroom, you should be prepared to spend about 16 hours per week completing required coursework. The time commitment may vary from week to week, depending on the amount of reading and other assigned work. Some weeks may require significantly fewer hours, some will require more. Throughout the course materials, I have included many reminders to you regarding the work that you must complete for this course but it is especially important in a fully online course for students to take responsibility for noting and meeting all course requirements and deadlines.

**Active Participation:**  
Your participation in weekly online lessons is critical to your success in this course and therefore required.  
You must have access to the Internet on a regular basis so that you can log on to the class at least every three days to check for announcements and email.

**Work Independently:**  
All coursework must be completed individually, without help from other students or anyone else.
D2L:
Again, you must log on to the D2L course at least every three days to check for announcements and email. All coursework must be submitted in the D2L course. I will not accept any coursework via email.
If you encounter problems with D2L, click on D2L Help at the top of the page. If you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term, outside the scheduled outages, contact the PSU Help Desk for assistance.
Problems with your computer or Internet connection are NOT acceptable reasons for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer or Internet access problems, you must use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines. It’s a good idea to have an alternative computer or two identified BEFORE you run into problems.

Students with Disabilities:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students with accommodations approved through the DRC are responsible for contacting me prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately at 503-725-4150. DRC recommended accommodations are NOT retroactive.

Required Textbooks

1. *SOC337U Minorities* from Pearson Custom Sociology. Note: This is a customized text containing selected excerpts from several larger books. Some references may be made to chapters or articles not contained in the customized text we are using. You are not expected to be familiar with those. You can purchase the book at Portland State Bookstore - http://www.portlandstatebookstore.com/? Please note: This book is loose-leaf and shrink-wrapped to save $$ and therefore cannot be sold back to the Bookstore once unwrapped.

   These are two editions of the same book. Either one will be okay for this course:


You may instead choose to purchase an ebook directly from the publisher at https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/buy/buy1.jsp?productID=514550

Course Description and Goals

In this course, we will examine relations among various racial and ethnic groups in America as well as several other minority groups. Students will gain an understanding of major concepts and theoretical approaches to the study of majority-minority group relations, and explore the issues surrounding the adaptation and oppression of various groups. The general course objectives I hope students will achieve:

- To better understand the dynamics of majority-minority group relations
- To better understand how the past has shaped present dynamics between groups
- To better understand your own role in majority-minority relations
- To examine some of the many myths and stereotypes about various American minority groups

Student Learning Objectives
We will approach this course with the following learning objectives:
Through active participation in weekly group discussions, students will learn to:

- Ask and answer questions about the readings
- Differentiate between fact and opinion
- Explain opinions to others
- Invite opinions from others
- Give feedback to one another
- Integrate various group members' ideas and opinions
- Respond to different standpoints and preferences among group members

Through required reading and online discussions, students will learn to:

- Analyze the dynamics of majority, minority group status
- Analyze the authors' arguments
- Compare and contrast your own views to those of the authors
- Apply ideas from the readings to our own experiences and those of others
- Compare and contrast real life experiences to those described by the authors

Course Policies

**Deadlines:**
Please plan to complete all your coursework well ahead of deadlines. This will give you and me more opportunity to correct any problems in time for you to meet the deadline. The longer you wait to attempt to submit your work, the less likelihood there is of correcting a problem in time. Don’t count on help being available during evenings and weekends! For example, if you wait until Saturday evening to attempt the quiz and encounter a problem, the chances are very poor that you will be able to find assistance from me or the Help Desk and you may lose those valuable points. On the other hand, if you are able to contact me well before the deadline, chances are good that we can solve the problems so you can meet that deadline.

Throughout the course materials, I have included many reminders to you regarding the work that you must complete for this course but it is especially important in a fully online course for students to take responsibility for noting and meeting all course requirements and deadlines.

- Students should complete all coursework prior to the date indicated in this syllabus and the assignment instructions on D2L.
- Problems with your computer or Internet connection are **NOT** acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems, use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines.
- Quiz deadlines are firm. One missed quiz will not impact your course grade and therefore may not be made up. Subsequent missed quizzes may only be made up in the case of illness. Contact instructor immediately for approval.
- Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. Since this is a group activity, it is not possible for an individual to make up this work after the deadline. No exceptions.
- **Original Post:** You must submit your original post by no later than midnight **Wednesday** night. (Only 1 point possible if submitted between Thursday and Saturday.)
- **Response Posts:** Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight **Saturday** night. No credit will be given for response posts submitted before Thursday.
- Missed exams Makeup exams are only allowed up to one calendar week after the closing date of the original exam. If you are ill during the exam availability period, you should contact me as soon as possible so an extension can be negotiated. If you miss an exam
for any other reason, 20% will be deducted from your score on a makeup exam. Contact instructor immediately for approval.

**Conduct:**
It is required that you act appropriately and demonstrate mutual respect for everyone involved in this course, including the instructor, mentor/assistants, and your classmates. Disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, allowing online access by unauthorized guests, profanity, verbal abuse or threats directed to others, general disrespect of others, will negatively impact your grade and may result in an F in the course. I reserve the right to delete any posts that I or your classmates find to be non-academic and offensive. Please review the University's Student Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy that you agreed to when you received your PSU network access. These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise.

**Plagiarism:**
It is extremely important that you do not represent another person’s work as your own (plagiarism), whether intentional or not. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourself with the intricacies of academic writing and the appropriate use of another person’s work and/or ideas. Please review the University’s Student Code of Conduct. These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise. You will not receive credit for any coursework that is not your own, original work.

**IMPORTANT:** You should think of your weekly discussion posts and essay responses (on exams) as short, formal writing assignments. As in all academic writing, you should make sure the tone is professional and not too casual. AND, you must properly cite your sources. Here are a few rules that are often forgotten:
- Any direct quote, whether a phrase or a full sentence or more, must be indicated with quotation marks.
- All direct quotes require that you cite the author and page number. (If you are referencing my lecture, just use (Holdt, Week 5 Lecture)).
- Any and all ideas that are not your own, original ideas must be properly cited, indicating the author. This applies to both paraphrasing and quoting.

Failure to follow these rules will result in 0 scores and a conduct complaint filed with the Dean of Student Life.

If you are not familiar with these rules of writing, you should consult a writing manual or seek support from the PSU Writing Center or a tutor. Here is a good online resource you may use - [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/).

I expect you to submit work that is appropriate for an upper division college course. While content should be our main focus in these assignments, I cannot accept any form of plagiarism.

**Grading:**
I have developed very detailed grading criteria and rubrics for scoring your discussion posts and exams. Although most of the actual grading is done by your assigned mentor/teaching assistant (TA), the evaluation and scoring of your work is done under my close supervision. My assistants follow my instructions and I check their work regularly. Refer to PSU’s Grading System for an explanation of the letter grades and other grading policies. Be sure to note that a C indicates satisfactory work. Meeting minimum requirements in a satisfactory manner is C work, NOT A work! In other words, students must do work that is significantly above and beyond the minimum requirements to earn a grade higher than C. Students taking the course with a Pass/No Pass grading option must earn a C- (70%) or better in the course in order to pass.
Course Structure: Weekly Modules and Instructions

This course is organized in WEEKLY LEARNING MODULES. The weeks begin at 6:00 am Sunday morning and end at midnight on Saturday night. This weekly structure may not be consistent with other online courses you have taken, or are currently taking, so please be sure to note this schedule so you can plan accordingly.

Required online activities are described in the weekly modules, which are accessible in the Course Content area.

Each WEEKLY LEARNING MODULE includes:

→ Instructor’s Lecture
Includes important course content provided by the instructor, often intended to supplement other required readings. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

→ Reading Assignment
Indicates which text chapters and online articles are required reading each week. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

→ Group Discussion Assignments
You will be assigned to a discussion group along with several of your classmates. Click on the Discussions link in the learning module to see the instructions. Each week you will be required to discuss a particular topic in your group, then respond to a minimum of two group members’ original postings.

Original Post: You must submit your original post by no later than midnight Wednesday night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for original posts submitted between Thursday and Saturday.) Each week, carefully read the discussion assignment instructions. In order to receive 3/3 points on your original post, it must be submitted within the required timeframe and answer all of the questions I asked. Also, it must go above and beyond by contributing more analysis and thought to the discussion. A score of 3 not only shows that you put thought into your posting but also that you’ve introduced an original idea or ideas about the topic. What did you read about this week that you can relate to the discussion? I am looking for you to make connections to the lecture material and/or the readings. Be sure to reference the page numbers of the ideas you are tying into your post. Try to think a bit more analytically about the topic/topics at hand. What questions do you have? What qualms do you have? What is something that you can bring from the outside that is interesting to add to the conversation?

Response Posts: Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight Saturday night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for response posts submitted prior to Thursday.) Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. In order to get a 3/3 on your response posts, respond thoughtfully to at least 2 or 3 other people’s ORIGINAL posts. Perhaps you can help the other students think about an issue in a new or different way or probe them as to why they believe a certain idea. Provide your own insight. Again, make connections to the readings. Pull in a couple of points or ideas from the week’s assigned chapters and reference the page numbers.
Push yourselves, give things more thought, and remember that it's okay to question traditional thoughts if you see something differently.

Your participation in weekly discussions is worth 25% of your overall course grade. Your posts will be evaluated based on the evidence of thoughtful consideration of the course material and group members’ comments using the scoring rubric found in the Tip Sheets module. If you earn 6/6 points, this means that you are making outstanding original posts AND outstanding responses to your classmates’ original posts.

→ Quiz
Each week, you are required to complete a quiz covering the week’s course materials. The quizzes consist of 20-30 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are open book and cover material from the instructor’s lectures, textbooks and online readings. Quizzes are available beginning at 6 am Sunday mornings and must be completed prior to 11:59 pm on Saturday nights.
You are allowed 2 attempts at each quiz and a different but similar set of questions will be presented with each attempt. Your highest score will be recorded. I suggest you complete the assigned readings, take the first attempt, then print your quiz and look up all the questions you missed. Some of the same questions are likely to be included in your second attempt as well. You should print your completed quizzes and use them as study guides for exams. At the end of the term, your lowest quiz score of the quarter will be dropped. Thus, if you do miss one quiz, it will not affect your grade. The remaining scores will be averaged and weighted at 25% of your overall course grade.
Once you begin a quiz, do not exit until you have completed it. Doing so may use up one of your two attempts and may prevent you from using any additional attempts. If you encounter any problems, click on D2L Help at the top of the page.

→ Checklist
Each week I provide a checklist so you can check off the work as you complete it and know if there is more work to be completed.

### Course Exams

There will be two online, open-book exams. The midterm will be available from Thursday through Saturday of week 5; the final will be available from Saturday of week 10 through Monday of Finals Week (week 11). Each exam is timed and you will have just one attempt to complete it. The exams will cover all online lectures, textbook readings, and online readings and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. As is standard with all essay exam questions, Your responses must be written in your own words. Refer to Plagiarism policy above. Your essay responses will be evaluated based on the number of relevant ideas you take from the course readings and how well you incorporate these ideas into your response. Generally, the more relevant ideas you correctly and clearly incorporate in your response, the more points you will receive.

You must complete both exams in order to pass the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Availability from</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Material covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>6:00 am Thursday, April 28</td>
<td>11:59 pm Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>weeks 1-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final exam
6:00 am
Saturday, June 4
11:59 pm
Monday, June 6
weeks 6-10

Missed exams - See deadline policy above.

I have included study guide questions in each weekly learning module so you can easily create your own study guide for each exam. See the Tip Sheets module for study ideas.

### Grading Structure:

The various types of coursework are weighted at 25% of your overall course grade. The scores on your coursework will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weighted points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes (average score)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams** - Take your total points, divided by the points possible and this will give you your percentage score. Multiply that percentage score by 25 to get your weighted points.

**Quizzes** – drop your lowest score, and average the remaining scores. Since all quizzes have 25 points possible, your average will be your weighted quiz points.

**Discussions** – This one is a bit more complicated. Each week, your original post is worth up to 3 points and your response posts are worth up to a total of 3 points, for a max of 6 points per week. If you are earning 6 points per week, you can expect to earn all 25 weighted points. If you are earning around 5 points each week, this is a B range so you can expect to earn around 20 weighted points. If you are earning around 4 points per week, this is the C range and you can expect to earn around 17 weighted points, and so on.

**Extra credit:** There will be one opportunity to earn extra credit. This will be in the form of an additional essay question on the final exam.

### Questions?

If you have trouble using any of the D2L tools, click on D2L Help at the top of the page. It is a very good idea to print a copy of the contact info found there in case you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term. If you are unable to access D2L, please contact the PSU Help Desk (503-725-HELP or help@pdx.edu).

If, at any time during the term, you have questions about any of the course requirements or other information in the syllabus, assignment instructions, or learning modules, please post your question in the Ask the Instructor Q & A area in Discussions, where I will answer your question so that everyone can see the response.

If you have a question that is personal or confidential, that you just don’t want your classmates to see, please feel free to contact me using the D2L email tool at holdtc@d2l.pdx.edu.

If you have a specific question about how a piece of your work was evaluated and graded, please feel free to contact your TA using the email tool. If you still need assistance after communicating with your TA, please contact me via D2L email. And please note that all of the
grading criteria and scoring rubrics were developed by me, your instructor. Your TA has very little leeway in assigning scores to your work. Together, we will be sure to get all your questions answered.

If you have a question about a quiz question, please wait until the quiz has closed before posting the question in the Q&A Discussions area. If you believe a question was worded improperly or the answer was incorrect, please contact me through D2L email and be sure to include the quiz number, your attempt number, question number, question text, specific reasons why you believe it is in error and the relevant page number(s) from the readings.