Majority-Minority Relations
Fall 2015
SOCI 4311-001
Tu/Th 9:30 – 10:50 A.M.
Business Building (BUS) 260

Professor: Dr. Rachel Head  
Email: rhead@uttyler.edu (my preferred method of contact)  
Office: BUS 204  
Phone: (903) 565-5680
Office Hours: M/W from 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the policies and practices of dominant social groups and the responses of racial and ethnic minorities. Focus is upon the United States.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify differences in definitions of race and comprehend race as a social construct.
2. Compare and contrast the concepts of race and ethnicity.
3. Assess the development of institutionalized racism and how it influences life chances of racial groups.
4. Identify how ideology, law, and science have been used to create racial categories historically and currently.
5. Relate historical processes in racial hierarchy formation to current life chances of groups.
6. Compare and contrast historical and contemporary processes in developing and maintaining racial hierarchies.
7. Connect the course material to their everyday lives and current events.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND BLACKBOARD

There is one required book for this course:


   Cost at UTT Bookstore:
   - New: $138
   - Used: $103.50
   - Rent New: $89.70
   - Rent Used: $62.10

2. The course website can be found at: https://blackboard.uttyler.edu/webapps/login/ Use your UTT Username and Password to login. If you are officially enrolled in the course, you should have access to the course on Blackboard after you login. Contact IT Support if you encounter any problems with Blackboard (itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu). In addition to required course readings, the course website contains
instructions and submission links for the course assignments, grades for the course, various announcements, and other useful information.

GRADING
Grades in this course will be based on in-class activities, 5 discussion participation assignments, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

In-class Activities (10 points): Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to complete reading assignments. The lectures will integrate the readings with complementary material. Doing well on the exams will depend on consistently attending lectures and keeping up with the course readings. To this end, there will be in-class activities, spread over the course of the semester, worth 10% of your grade. I will not accept late in-class activities except in the circumstances listed below under “Attendance and Make-up Work.”

Discussion Participation Assignments (50 points): There are 7 discussion participation assignments for the course. You are required to complete 5 of the assignments at 10 points each for 50% of your grade. The discussion participation assignments are available and due on Blackboard. The assignments provide you with an opportunity to reflect upon the readings and concepts for the week. They are intended to facilitate a dialogue in-class between us about the course materials. I will not accept late discussion participation assignments except in the circumstances listed below under “Attendance and Make-up Work.”

Exams (40 points): There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. The midterm is worth 20 points and the final exam is worth 20 points. Each exam will consist of take-home essays and will cover the assigned readings, class discussions/activities, and lecture material.

Extra Credit: These are the only mechanisms through which you can earn points in this course. There will be no extra credit opportunities or projects.

Incomplete Grades: No grades of “I” (Incomplete) will be assigned in this course.

There are a total of 100 points in this class— 10 points for in-class activities, 50 points for the discussion participation assignments, 20 points for the midterm, and 20 points for the final exam. Grades will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89.9 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79.9 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 69.9 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>49 or fewer points</td>
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UNIVERSITY & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES
Attendance and Make-up Work
I will take attendance for each class period. To receive consideration for make-up work you must either have a sanctioned anticipated situation (e.g., participation in official University functions, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) or a documented emergency situation (e.g., student illness, injury or death of immediate family member).

- Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Students with documented emergency situations must notify the instructor before the missed assignment date by email. The assignment must be made up within one week of the assignment due date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0 on the missed assignment.

Make-up work will be allowed only in situations where absences are excused.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. When you place your name on an assignment the instructor will interpret this as your statement that “I have received no unauthorized assistance on this assignment.” Unauthorized assistance includes, but is not limited to: cheating; submitting others’ work as your own work when it is not; submitting work that you submitted in another class, and plagiarism. Violations will be handled according to the UT Tyler Code of Student Conduct and may result in a grade of F.

http://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8Student%20Conduct%20and%20Discipline.pdf

**Mutual Respect**

It is important that we treat one another with respect in this course. Although this class is designed to foster open debate, an atmosphere of mutual respect must also be maintained. Disrespectful behaviors include talking on one’s cell phone during class, arriving late or leaving class early on a consistent basis, text messaging during class, reading newspapers or materials from other courses, using laptops during class, etc. Such behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the class for engaging in such behaviors.

**Harassment**

Each of us deserves to be treated, and is obligated to treat others, with dignity and respect, regardless of our sex, race, lifestyle, or the beliefs and values that we hold. If anyone (including the professor or your peers) says or does anything in this class that you consider harassment, please contact me (in person or anonymously) or contact the Department of Social Sciences.

**Reasonable Accommodations/Disability Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call (903) 566-7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu

**Students’ Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your
overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT I. THE POLITICS OF RACIAL CLASSIFICATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In this unit we explore the historic use of ideology, law, and science in the creation and maintenance of racial hierarchies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 25 – 27  (Week 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation Assignment 1: Five (5) definitions of race and citations due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on August 26th</td>
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<td>Sep 01 – 03 (Week 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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**Assignments:**  
Discussion Participation Assignment 2 due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on September 9th  
“Race: The Power of an Illusion”  
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**Assignments:**  
Discussion Participation Assignment 3 due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on September 16th  
**Recommended Readings:**  
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**Recommended Readings:**  
**UNIT III. THE CURRENT POLITICS OF RACIAL CLASSIFICATION**

In this unit we explore the current use of ideology, law, and science in the creation and maintenance of racial hierarchies.

**Oct 27 – 29 (Week 10)**

**Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration**

*Readings:*

**Assignment:**
- Discussion Participation Assignment 6 due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on October 28th

**Nov 03 – 05 (Week 11)**

**Reemergence of Biological Conceptions of Race**

*Readings:*

**Nov 10 – 12 (Week 12)**

**Race and Romance: Blurring Boundaries**

*Readings:*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| Nov 17 – 19 | 13   | **Critical White Studies: Racial Apathy, Cultureless Identities, & the New Racial Hierarchy**  
**Readings:**  
**Assignment:**  
Discussion Participation Assignment 7 due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on November 15th |
| Nov 24 – 26 | 14   | **No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday**                                        |
| Dec 01 – 03 | 15   | **Living with Less Racism**  
**Readings:**  
| Dec 08 or 10 | 16   | **Final Exam due via Blackboard by #:#**                                  |