

Course Title/Number/Section

Race and Ethnic Minorities (SOCL 4540)

Instructor Information

Name: Ghazaleh Ebnenasir (Pronouns: she/her)

Office: By appointment

Email: Ghazaleh.Ebnenasir@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant: Walid Abdul-Qader

Email: WalidAbdul-Qader@my.unt.edu

My name is Ghazaleh Ebnenasir, and I will be your instructor for the course Race and Ethnic Minorities. I am a graduate student in the Sociology Department and hold a master's degree in Women's & Gender Studies from the University of North Texas. I also earned a bachelor's degree in law from the Islamic Azad University of Esfahan in Iran. My academic interests focus on the intersections of race, gender, and religion, as well as human rights and justice. In my free time, I enjoy listening to podcasts, watching true crime movies, exploring new places, and learning about different cultures.

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

This course focuses on racial and ethnic relations in the U.S., from historical developments to contemporary issues, through a sociological lens. The course satisfies the Cross-cultural, Diversity, and Global Studies requirement of the University Core Curriculum. This course takes place 100% online. Your interactions with your fellow students and with me will take place in Canvas. Make sure your primary email account is set up in Canvas to avoid missing course communications. The course is structured around six broadly themed modules. There are activities, readings, and assignments specific to each module, but you have considerable freedom to progress in each module at your own pace, keeping in mind assignment deadlines. A detailed breakdown of each module can be viewed in the [Modules](#) section on Canvas.

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Articulate sociological approaches to studying race and ethnicity, including theoretical concepts and methods
2. Define how race is a social construction using historical and contemporary examples
3. Describe how race and ethnicity are associated with measurable social inequalities
4. Accurately summarize and critically assess social science research studies

Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts

Iceland, John. 2017. [*Race and Ethnicity in America*](#). University of California Press.

- This book is available electronically via UNT Libraries (click the link above and login with your EUID).
- You can also find affordable used copies online.

All other course materials are available electronically at **no cost**, either through UNT Libraries (with EUID login) or through other web sources. Links to required readings and activities are provided in each module, with notes on how to access them. Please note that UNT Libraries does not have subscriptions to *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Students may need to purchase subscriptions if they have exceeded the daily/monthly free quota from these publications. Students should reach out to me if they encounter challenges.

Course Activities & Assessments (1,000 points total)

| Table of course assignments | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Assignment | Points Possible | Percentage of Final Grade |
| Participation Participate in all 6 module discussions (lowest dropped). | 150 | 15% |
| SOCI 4540 Playlist Project | 100 | 10% |
| Module Quizzes A quiz at the end of each module (lowest dropped). | 250 | 25% |
| Research Article Summaries Two summaries, with the option to revise and resubmit one. | 200 | 20% |
| Motivation Essay | 50 | 5% |
| Conversations About Race Writing Assignment | 100 | 10% |

| Table of course assignments | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Assignment | Points Possible | Percentage of Final Grade |
| Reflection Essay | 50 | 5% |
| Final Paper | 100 | 10% |
| Total Points Possible | 1,000 | 100% |

Grading

- A: 900-1,000 (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 800-899 (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 700-799 (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria.)
- D: 600-699 (Below average work. The student does not meet most criteria.)
- F: 599 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to meet criteria.)

Grade-related Policies

Attendance Policy

You are expected to log into the course Canvas site on a regular basis to access course materials, participate in the discussion board, and otherwise engage with the course and your classmates.

Late Work and Extensions

Details for all the course assignments and deadlines are available before the start of the course so that you can plan accordingly. However, I understand sometimes students need extensions. With this in mind:

- All assignments (**with the exception of the final paper, quizzes, discussion posts, any extra credit or optional assignments, or otherwise noted in assignment guidelines**) have a *no-questions-asked 24-hour courtesy extension*. As long as eligible assignments are submitted within 24 hours of the original due date, they will not be penalized for lateness.
- Eligible assignments submitted after the 24-hour courtesy window but *within 48 hours of the original due date will have 10% of the score deducted (rounded UP)*.
- Eligible assignments submitted after 48 hours but *within 72 hours of the original due date will have 20% of the score deducted (rounded UP)*.
- Assignments submitted *later than 72 hours from the original due date will receive NO CREDIT*.
- Students do not need to contact me to make use of this policy. Extensions and deductions for lateness will be applied based on the submission timestamp shown in Canvas.

- If an emergency arises that necessitates longer extensions, you must contact me for accommodations **before the original assignment deadline**. Further extensions will be provided solely at my discretion. It is your responsibility as a student to contact me as early as possible if you anticipate difficulties in meeting any of the deadlines.
- Only completed assignments will be graded - incomplete assignments WILL NOT receive partial credit.

Academic Integrity (Including Usage of AI Tools)

All students are expected to adhere to UNT's [academic integrity policies](#).

To ensure all students have an equal opportunity to succeed and to preserve the integrity of the course, students are not permitted to submit text that is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT, Bing Chat, Claude, Google Bard, or any other automated assistance for any course assignments, including, but not limited to, discussion posts, quizzes, and writing assignments (including research article summaries). This includes using AI to generate answers to assignments, quizzes, or projects, or using AI to complete any other course-related tasks. Using AI in this way undermines your ability to develop critical thinking, writing, or research skills that are essential for this course and your academic success. Students may use AI as part of their research and preparation for assignments, or as a text editor, but text that is submitted must be written by the student. For example, students may use AI to generate ideas, questions, or summaries that they then substantially revise, expand, or cite properly based on their own reading and analysis of the assigned course materials. Students should also be aware of the potential benefits and limitations of using AI as a tool for learning and research. AI systems can provide helpful information or suggestions, but they are not always reliable or accurate. Students should critically evaluate the sources, methods, and outputs of AI systems. Violations of this policy will be treated as academic misconduct. If you have any questions about this policy or if you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is acceptable, email or sign up for office hours so that we can discuss your specific circumstances.

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and grading rubric and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. To petition for a grade review:

- Sign up for office hours
- At least 12 hours before the meeting, email me a version of the assignment(s) in question in which you have highlighted and commented on sections that you believe demonstrate a higher quality of work than the score you received based on the grading rubric.

If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within three days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

ADA Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>Links to an external site.. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Technical Issues

It is **your responsibility to document any technical issues** you may experience that prevent you from completing or submitting assignments. This includes, but is not limited to, screenshots of error screens or messages, confirmation from IT of a specific issue, and/or other clear evidence that you experienced an issue. This documentation should then be emailed to me if you are requesting an extension or other accommodation.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be assigned in this course, with the exception of the "Read the Syllabus" Quiz.

Course Summary:

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| Fri Jan 16, 2026 | Discussion Topic Introduce Yourself | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jan 18, 2026 | Assignment "Read the Syllabus" Extra Credit Quiz Points | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jan 25, 2026 | Discussion Topic Module 1 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| | Quiz Module 1 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Motivation Essay | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion Topic Module 2 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 8, 2026 | Quiz Module 2 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion Topic The SOCI 4540 Playlist Project | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion Topic Module 3 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 22, 2026 | Quiz Module 3 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Research Article Summary 1 | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion Topic Module 4 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |
| | Quiz Module 4 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Mar 8, 2026 | Assignment Conversations About Race: Listening to Others | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Conversations About Race: Listening to Others Interview Audio Upload | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Apr 5, 2026 | Discussion Topic Module 5 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| | Quiz Module 5 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Research Article Summary 2 | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion Topic Module 6 Discussion | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Apr 19, 2026 | Quiz Module 6 Quiz | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Reflection Essay | due by 11:59pm |
| Thu Apr 30, 2026 | Assignment SPOT Course Evaluation | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Final Paper | due by 11:59pm |
| Thu May 7, 2026 | Assignment Research Article Summary Revise and Resubmit (Optional) | due by 11:59pm |