

## **Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies**

Anthropology 2070/Sociology 2070

Spring 2012

Tuesday and Thursday 3:30pm-4:50pm

Chemistry 352

**INSTRUCTORS:** Dr. Mariela Nuñez-Janes (profe), Cheylon Brown, Victoria Schlieder  
(Teaching Assistant)

### **Dr. Nuñez-Janes**

**OFFICE:** Chilton Hall 330F

**TELEPHONE:** 940/369-7663

**EMAIL:** Mariela.Nunez-Janes@unt.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 10am-noon, or by appointment

### **Cheylon Brown**

**OFFICE:** Multicultural Center

**TELEPHONE:** 940/369-7450

**EMAIL:** Cheylon.brown@unt.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays and Fridays 9am-11am

### **Victoria Schlieder** (Teaching Assistant)

**OFFICE:** Chilton Hall 308D

**TELEPHONE:** 940/565-3144

**EMAIL:** victoriaschlieder@my.unt.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1pm-3pm and Thursdays 2pm-3pm

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This class will provide a general introduction of the interdisciplinary field of Ethnic Studies. It is designed to help you engage with fundamental concepts that will allow you to understand the relevance of race and ethnicity in contemporary U.S. To achieve these objectives this class will:

- Introduce you to the basic theories related to the study of race and ethnic relations.
- Examine the various perspectives relevant to ethnic studies (i.e. anthropology, sociology, history) to analyze how race relations have evolved in the U.S.
- Explain the tendencies that contribute to foster assimilation or cultural distinctiveness among various groups in the U.S
- Raise questions about continuing prejudice and racism in our society, and look at applied attempts to rectify racial distrust and alienation.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS (275 points total)**

### **1) Readings:**

- You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them.

### **2) Attendance:**

- To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.
- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name on the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.
- More than 4 unexcused absences will lower your total semester grade by 20 points.
- An unexcused absence during a scheduled “community discussion” (see below for explanation) will count as 2 absences.
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor’s note documenting your illness or a death in the family

### **3) Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project: (200 points total)**

You will be assigned a group. Your group’s task is to select a community problem on or off campus, conduct research to find out more about it, and develop and/or implement an action(s). Possible community problems include: coverage and portrayal of race, ethnicity, gender, or class in the NT Daily, tuition costs and financial aid, student enrollment, campus climate for first-generation or LGBT students, high school to college pipeline. The PAR project will consist of the following assignments:

#### **1) Topic and Methods (50 points)**

2 page double-spaced paper written by the entire group (1 paper per group)

Must include the following:

- *Topic:* What do you plan to research and why is it important? What question/s will you try to answer?
- *Methods:* What tools of data collection will you use? Where will you conduct the research? How will you conduct the research (for example: # of people, observations, surveys etc.).How do you plan to gain access?
- *Timeline:* When will you conduct the research and who will be responsible for the data collection and analysis?
- *Due 3/8*

#### **2) Data, Results, and Action Plan (50 points)**

2 page double-spaced paper written by the entire group (1 paper per group)

Must include the following:

- *Findings*: How did you analyze or make sense of the data (describe exactly what you did? What did you find through your research?
- *Relevance*: Why are your findings important? How are they related to the topics covered in class and to specific ideas from the class readings?
- *Action*: What specific actions do you suggest? How are your proposed actions related to your findings? If you were able to implement your actions, what were the results?
- *References cited*: Cite the readings and class notes that informed your research using the AAA style (this will be discussed in class)
- *Due 4/12*

3) Presentation (50 points):

Your group will conduct an in class presentation using Power Point or Prezi. Every group member must be present and participate in order to receive full credit. Attendance by the rest of the class is still mandatory during group presentations. Must include the following:

- Name of group members
- Topic and research question(s)
- Methodology
- Findings
- Action(s)
- Reflection
- *Due starting 4/24*

4) Group Participation (50 points)

Your participation in the PAR project will be graded by your group members. A peer-grading sheet will be distributed in class.

- *Due 5/1*

- Late assignments will be deducted 5 points for every day they are late unless you have a documented excuse.

5) 1 volunteer activity: (75 points total)

- You will spend at least 2 hours outside of class as a volunteer for the Multicultural Center.
- An explanation of the available volunteer activities along with a sign-up will be discussed in class.
- To get full-credit for the volunteer activity you must:
  - Sign up for an activity
  - Show up on the day you signed-up to volunteer and perform your volunteer duties accordingly
  - Write 1 short reflection (250 words). Include:
    - A description of what you did
    - Your reflections (what you learned, any suggestions)

- *Complete no later than 4/19*

#### **6) Community Discussion:**

- We will engage in a class discussion of topics relevant to you.
- See the course outline for dates.
- Your attendance and participation in community discussions is required.
- An unexcused absence during a scheduled “community discussion” will count as 2 absences.

#### **7) 1 optional extra credit (10 points):**

- Write a short reaction paper to a film shown in class or a guest lecture.
- The paper should be no longer than 2 type-written pages and must be double spaced. It must include:
  - a) name of the film or name of guest lecturer, b) a brief description of the film or lecture, c) your reaction to the film or lecture: if you liked it, disliked it and why, d) its contribution to your understanding of Ethnic Studies.
- The optional extra credit is due on the class day immediately following the film or guest lecture that you selected. No exceptions!

#### **Grading:**

- All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scheme:

100-89% = A

88-79% = B

78-69% = C

68 -59% = D

58%- = F

- You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress. If you have questions about your grade or if you need documentation of your grade progress talk to us during office hours or make an appointment.

#### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones. Laptops are only allowed for note taking.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.
5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and**

**you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**

6. All work must be turned in at the beginning of class. We will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

**7. Plagiarism and Cheating.** The department of anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

8. The Anthropology Department does not discriminate on the basis of an individual’s disability as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities in its program and activities. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements.

**SETE** (Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness): The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. We are very interested in the feedback we get from students, as we work to continually engage students in our teaching. We consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

Available at the UNT bookstore:

Kendall, Diane

1997 *Race, Class, and Gender in a Diverse Society*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. [referred to as RCG in the course outline]

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **I: LOOKING AT RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER**

#### **1/17 Introduction**

#### **1/19 Ethnic Studies: history, methods, objectives**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 1-8 and <http://www.unt.edu/ethnicstudies/>

*\*Access this web link and become familiar with its contents*

**1/24 From biological race to social race**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 1

**1/26 Social Race (continued)**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 2

**1/31 Community Discussion**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 3

*\*Attend a student organization meeting sponsored by a group that differs from your race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. Write a one page reflection that includes the following: name of organization, topic(s) of discussion, reaction (how did you feel?). Bring your written reflection to class.*

**2/2 Film-Race the power of an illusion: The Story We Tell**

**Assignment:** Review RCG Articles 1-3

**2/7 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Equity and Diversity Conference.**

**Assignment:** Attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Equity and Diversity Conference.

*Registration is free for students but you must register ahead of time. Access this link for conference details and registration information*

*<http://edo.unt.edu/content/12th-annual-equity-diversity-conference>*

**2/9 Explanation of volunteer activity and sign-up**

**Assignment:** <http://www.unt.edu/edo/multicultural.htm> Access this web link for the Multicultural Center and become familiar with its contents. We will meet in the Student Union room 218

**2/14 Ethnicity and culture**

**Assignment:** RCG pp 8-10, Article 4

**2/16 Racism**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 299-300, Article 23

**2/21 Introduction to PAR and Explanation of Project**

**Assignment:** Review RCG pp 8-10, 299-300, Article 4, 23

*\*Access the website for the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change*

*<http://archive.fieldmuseum.org/par/introduction.html> Read the Introduction and 7-Step Model*

**2/23 Discussion of PAR project: Choosing a Topic and Collecting Data**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 20

*\*PAR groups will be assigned in class*

**2/28 Capitalism and class**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 10-17, Article 5

**3/1 Working class struggles**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 302-306, Article 22

**3/6 Film-Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 6

**3/8 Discussion of PAR project: Making sense of the data and planning an action**

**Assignment:** PAR Topic and Methods due

**3/13 Community Discussion****3/15 Film-Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 17-23

**3/19-3/25 SPRING BREAK****3/27 Film-Miss Navajo**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 14

**3/29 Gender and sexuality**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 7

**4/3 Gender, sexism**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 13

**II: LIVING AND LEARNING IN A DIVERSE AND CONFLICT RIDDEN SOCIETY****4/5 Intersections of privilege and oppression**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 10

**4/10 Community Discussion****4/12 Education and schools**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 18. PAR Data, Results, and Action Plan due

**4/17 Education and schools continued**

**Assignment:** RCG pp. 139-149, Article 15

-privilege line on just education

**4/19 Community Discussion**

**Assignment:** RCG Article 27. Volunteer Activity must be completed by this date.

*\*Sign up for PAR presentation in class*

### **III: RESISTANCE AND CHANGE**

**4/24 PAR Presentations**

**4/26 PAR Presentations**

**5/1 PAR Presentations**

**Assignment:** Turn in group participation peer-grading sheets

**5/3 PAR Presentations**

**5/8 Celebration, 1:30-3:30pm**

Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions