

Course Syllabus

Race and Ethnic Minorities (SOCI 4540)

Course Description

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.

Course Structure

This course takes place 100% online. Your interactions with me and with your fellow students 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.

Course Objectives

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).
- Hard copies can be purchased at the UNT Bookstore or at Voertman's.

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.

Office Hours and Email Policy

Instructor: Phoebe Ho (Professor Ho)

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: phoebe.ho@unt.edu

Office hour meetings are set in 15-minute increments. If you think you will need more than 15 minutes, you may reserve additional meeting slots within reason. Do not be late as it may impact other students' schedules. If you cannot make your appointment, make changes at least 24 hours in advance so that other students have the chance to sign up. You may request appointments outside of these hours by emailing me several dates and time options.

All relevant course communications will occur through Canvas. Make sure your primary email account is set up in Canvas to avoid missing course communications. For individual questions and concerns, email me directly or schedule a meeting during virtual office hours.

When sending an email:

- Make sure that the answer is not already in the syllabus or elsewhere on Canvas.
- Include an informative subject line and start with Dear Professor Ho.
- Have a clear and succinct inquiry.
- If you have not received a reply within 24 hours, you may send a polite reminder (the above rules still apply).

Course Activities & Assessments (1,000 points total)

Table of course assignments

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation Participate in Canvas discussions for at least five out of the six course modules (lowest dropped).	150	15%
SOCI 4540 Playlist Project	50	5%
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%

Table of course assignments

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Motivation Essay	50	5%
Conversations About Race Writing Assignments Two writing assignments, 75 points each	150	15%
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.

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 seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

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.