

Race and Ethnic Minorities (SOCI 4540)

Instructor: Phoebe Ho

Office Hours: 1:30-4:30pm on Thursdays (Sycamore Hall, 288AA), or by appointment
(Scheduled hours can be reserved at <https://calendly.com/phoebeho/15min>) [Links to an external site.](#)

Email: phoebe.ho@unt.edu

Class Meeting Schedule: TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM

Class Location: SAGE 356

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.

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.

Course Structure

The course is structured around six broadly themed modules. There are activities, readings, assignments, and quizzes specific to each module. A detailed breakdown of each module is available on Canvas. Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursday. Class sessions will revolve around a brief lecture and small-group and whole-class discussion.

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

Course Communications and Office Hours:

All relevant course communications outside of class 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 or the teaching assistant 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 (above rules still apply).

Office hours can be reserved through Canvas or at this link: <https://calendly.com/phoebeho/15min>.

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 as soon as possible so that other students have the chance to sign up. You may request appointments outside of these hours by emailing me several date and time options (meetings outside of regular office hours are likely to be via Zoom).

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Up to three no-questions-asked absences and three excused absences (with documentation and consistent with UNT policy: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/05-029>) are allowed for the semester. Each additional absence beyond this will result in a loss of participation points. Students are also expected to log in to the course Canvas site on a regular basis to access course materials and otherwise engage with the course and classmates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to UNT's [student academic integrity policies](#). Instances of academic dishonesty may be considered grounds for academic penalties, up to and including failure in the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication (including the usage of artificial intelligence software). Students who have questions about whether a particular approach to an assignment is appropriate should consult with me beforehand.

Late Work and Extensions

Most assignments, unless otherwise noted, 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. Eligible assignments submitted after 48 hours but within 72 hours of the original due date will have 20% of the score deducted. Eligible assignments submitted later than 72 hours from the original due date will receive no credit. Students do not need to make any special arrangements to make use of this policy.

If there is an emergency that requires a longer extension, you must contact me for accommodations before the 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 provided clear and specific comments 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

Refer to Assignments on Canvas for details on how to earn extra credit. Any additional extra credit will be provided at my discretion.

Course Activities & Assessments (1,000 points total)

Assignment	Points Possible	% of Final Grade
Participation	150	15%
Motivation Essay	50	5%
SOCI 4540 Playlist Project	100	10%
Module Quizzes Six quizzes total. 50 points each (2 lowest dropped).	200	20%
Research Article Summaries* Two summaries, with the option to revise and resubmit one. 100 points each.	200	20%
Group Presentations Two peer-evaluated group presentations. 50 points each.	100	10%
Final Paper*	100	10%
SOCI 4540 Podcast Project*	100	10%
Total Points Possible	1,000	100%

**Failure to complete this assignment will result in an automatic failure in the course, regardless of current standing.*

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.)