



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

SOC 109 Race Relations in the U.S.

Course Outline

Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020

Class Hours: 14:00-15:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: SOC109

Instructor: Dr. Job Chen

Home Institution: Clemson University

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: zhuoc@clemson.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description:

This course examines the origins, development, and characteristics of various ethnic groups in the United States. From this survey of topics, we will critically examine the concept of race and racism, how race shapes individual experiences and identity, as well as the intersections of race with values and power on social level.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- 1) understand the history of race relations in America.
- 2) understand what is meant when we describe race as a “social construction.”
- 3) discuss the relationship between race and key cultural values, such as religion



- 4) explain how racial tensions are perpetuated in contemporary society
- 5) use course concepts to reflect on how race and ethnicity that plays a role in our daily lives

Required Textbooks:

Schaefer, R. T. (2019). Racial and Ethnic Groups (15th edition). Pearson.

Grading & Evaluation:

Assignments (40%) – Midterm exam (30%) – Final exam (30%)

Grades will be distributed as 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D; and below 60% = F. Intermediary assignments will be posted throughout the course, to help students assess their needs and to ensure that all the important topics are well understood. Assignments are also an opportunity for students to ask questions concerning unclear notions, as the main objective is not to grade but to help everyone reach an optimal level of comprehension.

Midterm and final exams will target all topics previously covered in class. Lecture notes and assignments are important to succeed in the midterm and final exams, yet some questions will be specifically intended to stimulate students' critical thinking.

Attendance is extremely important for success in this class. It is expected that each student will commit fully to the assignments and readings required. Exams will cover the required texts as well as material presented or discussed in class.

Course Schedule

Week1

Session 1: Course Introduction

Session 2: Exploring Race and Ethnicity

Session 3: Prejudice

Session 4: Discrimination

Week2

Session 1: Native Americans and Their Values



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Session 2: Caucasian Americans and Christianity I

Session 3: Caucasian Americans and Christianity II

Session 4: Midterm

Week3

Session 1: African Americans

Session 2: African Americans II Movie: Green Book

Session 3: Latinos I

Session 4: Latinos II

Week4

Session 1: Muslim Americans

Session 2: East Asian Americans

Session 3: Asian Pacific Americans

Session 4: Jewish Americans