



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2018 Summer Program

SOC 19 Race Relations in the U.S.

Course Outline

Term: June 4 – June 29, 2018

Class Hours: 4:00-6:00PM (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: SOC 19

Instructor: Prof. Noriko Matsumoto PHD

Home Institution: University of Vermont

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: Noriko.Matsumoto@uvm.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.

1. Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to contemporary patterns of racial and ethnic relations in the United States and draws upon sociological concepts, theories, and research. The sociological approach begins with the premise that race and ethnicity are socially and politically constructed concepts. The goal of this course is to explore how these concepts structure human life and the organization of society.

Specific topics include: systems of racial classification; sociological theories of race and ethnicity; ethnoracial identities; immigration; assimilation; racial attitudes and behavior (prejudice, discrimination, racism). In analyzing such wide yet interrelated topics we will also consider the consequences of perceived difference on social outcomes—for example, income, wealth, education,



employment, place of residence, and institutional relationships.

The first part of the course will be devoted to fundamental sociological concepts and perspectives on race and ethnic relations. During the latter half of the course, emphasis will be placed on the history and social conditions of major ethnoracial groups and the various trends that influence contemporary racial and ethnic relations.

2. Required Readings

- Vincent N. Parrillo. 2014. *Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*. Boston, Mass.: Pearson. 11th ed.
- Additional readings indicated in the class schedule.

3. Course Requirements

Exams: Each exam comprises multiple choice and short answer questions based on both the readings and lectures. N.b. *There will be no make-ups without a legitimate and documented explanation.* Only emergencies beyond student control (accident, illness, family tragedy), with proper documentation, will be granted as justification for make-ups.

Attendance and Participation:

- 1) Students are expected to come to class having read the assignment for each session.
- 2) Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class; it is important that students be punctual. *Points will be deducted for each absence without legitimate excuse.* If you miss all or part of a class you are responsible for getting notes on the missed material and the information disseminated in class from a fellow student.
- 3) In-class discussion is a critical part of this course. Students are expected to engage with the course material and with discussion in class. Your level of involvement, both in terms of consistency and quality of contributions (e.g. thoughtfulness, critical thinking) goes toward the participation grade. Active participation will improve the overall course grade and enhance deeper understanding of the material.

4. Grading

Grades will reflect performance in the three exams (including the final) and attendance and participation:

Examinations I & II	50% (25% * 2)
Final examination	35%
Attendance and participation	15%



5. Classroom Conduct

- Be punctual and arrive in class on time. Please do not leave the classroom before the end of the class period without informing me beforehand. Late arrival or early departure are disruptive.
- No use of electronic devices, including mobile phones and laptop computers, during class time. Be sure to turn off all mobile phones.
- Refrain from personal conversations or disruptive behavior during lectures. It is important that you be considerate of your fellow students.

6. Academic Integrity

Offences against the code of academic integrity are serious and an affront to the entire academic community. Any suspected violations of the code are taken very seriously and will result in a failure in your exam(s).

Note. The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the syllabus when deemed appropriate and necessary.

Class Schedule

Note. The readings from Parrillo (2014) below exclude the chapter section, “Sociological Analysis.”

Week 1	Th	June 7	Introduction to the course American Anthropological Association, “Statement on ‘Race’” (1998) Film: “Race: The Power of an Illusion. The Difference Between Us” (2003)
	F	June 8	The Study of Minorities: History, Concepts, Perspectives Parrillo, chap. 1
Week 2	M	June 11	The Social Construction of “Race” Davis, “Defining Race: Comparative Perspective” (2012) Terry, “Getting Under My Skin” (2000); Omi and Winant, “Racial Formations” (2012); Prewitt, “Fix the Census’ Archaic Racial Categories” (2013)
	T	June 12	Culture and Structure



Parrillo, chap. 2; Kozol, "Savage Inequalities" (2010)

W June 13 **Prejudice and Discrimination**
Parrillo, chap. 3; Traub, "Forget Diversity" (2003);
Rimer and Arenson, "Top Colleges Take More Blacks,
But Which Ones?" (2004); Steinberg, "Not All of Them
Are Pre-Med" (2003)
Review for Examination I

Th June 14 *Examination I*

June 14 **Race, Representation, and Popular Culture**
Film: "Ethnic Notions" (1987)
Dirks and Mueller, "Racism and Popular Culture"
(2012) [Bb]

F June 15 **Patterns of Intergroup Relations, Privilege and
Color-blind Ideology**
Parrillo, chap. 4; McIntosh, "White Privilege" (1989);
Gallagher, "Color-Blind Privilege" (pp. 92-98 [col. 1]
only) (2012)

Week 3 M June 18 **Native Americans**
Parrillo, chap. 7; Crow Dog, "Civilize Them with a
Stick" (1990); Wilkins and Stark, "Native Peoples,
Images, and the Media" (2011)

T June 19 **African Americans**
Parrillo, chap. 10; Shapiro, "Transformative Assets, the
Racial Wealth Gap" (2012); Alexander, "The New Jim
Crow" (2012); Pager, "The Mark of a Criminal Record"
(2012)

W June 20 **Hispanic Americans**
Parrillo, chap. 11
Review for Examination II

Th June 21 *Examination II*

F June 22 **Asian Americans (cont'd)**
Parrillo, chap. 8; Wu, "Yellow" (2004)



Week 4	M	June 25	White Americans, Middle Eastern Americans/Muslim Americans Parrillo, chap. 5 (pp. 133-139 only), chap. 6 (pp. 150-158, 171-175 only); Brodtkin Sacks, "How Jews Became White" (2010); Waters, "Ethnic Options" (1990) Parrillo, chap. 9 (pp. 276-289), chap. 12 (pp. 403-408)
	T	June 26	Structural Racism (review), Racial Structure and Ethnoracial Identity Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk" ([1903] 1996); Ojito, "Best of Friends, Worlds Apart" (2000) Film: "Race: The Power of an Illusion. The House We Live In" (2003)
	W	June 27	Changing Ethnoracial Boundaries Gonzales, "Lives in Limbo" (2016); Lee and Bean, "Beyond Black and White" (2003) Film: "30 Days: Immigration" (2006)
	Th	June 28	Changing Ethnoracial Boundaries Parrillo, chap. 15; Dalmage, "Discovering Racial Borders" (2012) Review and summary of the course
	F	June 29	<i>Final Examination</i>