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Sociology 38103 / International Studies 31113: Race and Ethnicity in International Perspective

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CUNY City College

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**Sociology 38103 / International Studies 31113:
Race and Ethnicity in International Perspective
Tues / Thurs 5:00-6:15, NAC 7/312
Instructor: Jennifer Sloan
Email: JSloan@ccny.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 4:15-4:45, NAC 6/123
<https://tinyurl.com/RaceEthnF18>**

Course Description

Race and ethnicity are key dimensions of stratification in society. This course examines the conceptual construction of race and ethnicity in different societies around the world during different eras. It pays special attention to the causes and consequences of racial and ethnic conflict and cooperation from the perspective of state institutions as well as cultural groups.

This is an upper-level elective which is designed to promote in-depth discussion during class and intensive reading and writing outside of class.

This course will proceed in three sections. In the first section, students will become familiar with sociological, historical, biological, and anthropological approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. Students will learn and critique theories pertaining to race and ethnicity, migration and assimilation, racialization, and prejudice and discrimination which are used to analyze racial and ethnic relations. The second section of the course is devoted to understanding the social and historical policies and contextual factors that led to the development and maintenance of specific racial and ethnic group boundaries in different regions and time periods. In the last third of the course, the consequences of racialization will be analyzed using the theoretical and socio-historical concepts learned in the earlier part of the course. These consequences are grounded in complex social problems such as residential segregation, employment discrimination, and genocide.

The learning outcomes for all sociology students are that they:

1. Understand the sociological perspective, identify and recall its terminology and the basic areas of sociological inquiry, focusing on topics such as culture, socialization, self and society, social stratification, social class, the family, religion, community organizing, collective behavior, mass culture, and social change.
2. Be able to apply the methods and techniques of sociological research, including survey research, sampling, questionnaire construction, hypothesis testing, field observation, unstructured interviewing, participant observation, and control for bias.

3. Understand, identify, and recall the roots of modern sociological theory focusing on the ideas of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, et al. with emphasis on the intellectual and social context and the current relevance of their ideas.
4. Understand, identify, and recall the subjects discussed in the course, the research methods employed, and the theoretical basis for developing knowledge of these subjects in sociology.
5. Develop knowledge of specific issues or problems in sociology through a research project and/or field work placement that results in a term paper or similar writing assignment that earns a passing grade.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how race and ethnicity is approached from sociological, historical, anthropological, and biological perspectives.
- Use theories pertaining to race and ethnicity (social constructionism, assimilation, prejudice, etc.) to understand and analyze racial and ethnic groups across time and place.
- Relate this knowledge to contemporary social problems.
- Understand the diverse research methodologies employed in the study of race and ethnicity.
- Discuss issues related to race and ethnicity in a logical, respectful, and evidence-based manner.
- Critically evaluate arguments of other authors verbally and in written form.

Course Materials:

This course is designated as Zero Textbook Cost / Open Educational Resources ([ZTC](#) / [OER](#)) meaning that you are not required to purchase any books for this course. Course materials will be accessed via the locations listed below. You are responsible for making sure that you can access the materials.

1. Direct link on syllabus/Blackboard (e.g., newspaper article, journal article)
2. Blackboard (go to Content → Readings → weekly folder)
3. Resource from CUNY library (e.g., e-book)
4. Resource from NYPL (e.g., e-book, movie)

Sign up for the following accounts:

NY Times Digital Access - <https://myaccount.nytimes.com/verification/edupass>

New York Public Library card - <https://www.nypl.org/help/library-card>

Collection of Articles on Zotero

https://www.zotero.org/groups/race_and_ethnicity_in_international_perspective

These are articles that might be of interest to you – you’re not required to read them, but they are good supplements for what we’re reading in class. Feel free to let me know if you’d like me to add anything.

Blackboard and Email:

Blackboard Account: <https://cunyportal.cuny.edu/>

We will use Blackboard regularly, make sure that you can access the class.

Check that the email address in your Bb account is current. This is the only way that I can contact you outside of class. If you don’t have access to the email address that’s in Blackboard and / or don’t check it regularly, switch it to an email address that you do check. To check your email address in Bb: on the main Blackboard page (where you can see all of your courses), go to the Tools menu on the left, select Update Email, enter your preferred email address. If you have difficulty with Blackboard, CCNY email, etc. please contact the CCNY IT Service Desk at servicedesk@ccny.cuny.edu / 212.650.7878. I am unable to assist with Blackboard, CUNY First, email, etc. technical issues.

Accessing e-books through CUNY Libraries:

Some readings are available as an e-book through the [CCNY Library](#). You can find most CUNY and City College E-books in the [CUNY Catalog](#), with links to the full text. After you’ve found your book in the library, click on CUNY or City College at the bottom of the page in the Call Number section; this will bring you to the ebrary reader where you can view the text. All texts can be read online in the ebrary reader; most texts can be downloaded and printed (click on “download” and select the chapter / pages you would like – a PDF will be created from the selected pages, you can save and/or print this PDF); some can be downloaded to an e-reader (although *not* to a Kindle). The library staff can assist you in accessing these materials. You will need your CCNY library info to log in and access these e-books. If you have not activated the library barcode on your CCNY ID you will need to go to the library in person to do so before you can access electronic library resources.

It is expected that you will have done the reading that is assigned for the date that it is listed. When possible, bring the reading to class with you.

Assignments and Grading

Exams – 60%

There will be 3 take-home essay exams which each student will complete independently. Students will turn in one hard copy of their exam and one copy online via Blackboard.

Weekly Comment – 15%

Each week, students will submit one ***thoughtful*** question, comment, critique, idea, etc. of about the week’s readings and/or lecture. The weekly comment should be at least 150 words and reference a reading or lecture and demonstrate that you have thought about the course material. Comments shorter than 150 words and not referencing a reading or lecture will not receive credit. Comments

may be used (anonymously) by the instructor during classroom discussions. Comments must be submitted on Blackboard by **10pm each Monday** (except where noted). You are required to submit a total of **10** weekly comments, meaning that you can miss a couple of weeks if needed. If you submit more than 10 weekly comments then you will receive extra credit for the additional (i.e., eleventh and further) comments you submit. (You can only submit one comment a week, though!)

Participation – 15%

Participation includes actively participating in classroom discussions, small-group activities and small-group discussions, short in-class writing assignments, mini quizzes, and the like. Students are expected to be present and on time for every class; only documented absences due to extenuating circumstances and approved by the instructor will be permitted. If you are not present in class you cannot participate. (Do not ask how many absences you are allowed to have - you decide whether you're coming to class or not - but if you are absent for, say, 7 classes, you've missed 25% of the course - at a minimum, this will reduce your participation grade by 25%.)

Quizzes – 10%

Pop quizzes will be given at various points in the semester. These quizzes will be about the readings and lectures. If you are keeping up with reading and paying attention in class you should do fine! You cannot make up a quiz if you miss it (e.g., if you have an unexcused absence or are late). If you miss a quiz, your grade for that quiz is a zero. You are allowed to drop ONE quiz grade.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to arrive, on time, for every class meeting, have completed the readings assigned for that day before coming to class, and be prepared to participate in active class discussions and activities. Participation counts toward your grade; students who are not active in class discussions will see this reflected in their grade. You will likely find that you understand the material in more depth when you are actively participating in classroom discussions and activities.

Be on time! Class will start promptly. It's your responsibility to find out what happened in your absence.

There is a lot of reading in this course; you are advised to spread it out over the course of the week rather than to read everything in one sitting. Some of the works are dense and will take some time to get through. It can help to skim over a reading to get a general idea of the piece then go back over it for a more close reading. Taking notes and writing short summaries (one sentence to one paragraph) after you've read will likely be helpful.

There will be a lot of discussion in this course. Respect your classmates' opinions and diverse perspectives. ***Remember that anecdotes - i.e., stories about the guy who lives down the street or that thing that happened that one time - are not sociology. Sociology is identifying and understanding patterns of behavior. Use facts, evidence, examples from scholarly sources,***

etc. to support your arguments. Personal attacks, profanity, and disrespect will not be tolerated. If you feel uncomfortable with a discussion topic feel free to say so, you may leave the room during the discussion.

Changes to Schedule

There may be slight adjustments in the scheduling of topics, readings, due dates, etc. Additional readings may be added; some readings may be removed. Changes will be posted on Blackboard and announced in class. You are responsible for being aware of these changes once they are posted on Blackboard and/or the syllabus. Be sure that your email address in Blackboard is current. Any significant changes that do occur will be posted on Blackboard and mentioned in class.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Students must do all their work within the boundaries of acceptable academic norms. See the *Student Handbook* regarding [CCNY's policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty](#). Students found guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include reduction of grade, a failure in the course, suspension, or expulsion.

Students with Disabilities

Students who require accommodation for a learning, physical, psychological, or other disability or medical condition are encouraged to contact the AccessAbility Center (AAC) for assistance. The AAC and the instructor will work together to provide reasonable accommodation to all students. Contact the AAC as early as possible in order to ensure that your need for accommodation is met in a timely manner. <http://tinyurl.com/CCNYAACenter>

Counseling and Support Services:

CCNY offers a variety of free counseling services and workshops to help students develop effective studying strategies, help deal with stress, time management skills, etc. as well as to help with emotional issues that may arise. This is a very useful resource and you are encouraged to take advantage of it! <http://tinyurl.com/CCNYCounseling>

General Notes

Computers, tablets, etc. are permitted in class ONLY for the purposes of taking notes. Anyone using a computer for any other purpose during lecture (e.g., email, chat, Facebook, web browsing) will be asked to turn off their computer and may not be permitted to use such devices during future classes. Multiple violations of this policy may result in a complete class-wide ban on electronic devices during lecture. The instructor may ask to see the typed notes of students using computers during lecture.

Lectures and lecture slides can only be recorded (video, audio, photograph, or otherwise) with the consent of the instructor.

Cell phones and other electronic devices (except those used for note taking) must be turned off while class is in session. Phones should be on silent and kept put away during class, not kept out on your desk. Anyone using their cell phone during class may be asked to leave.

Use appropriate email etiquette when emailing the instructor:

- Allow at least 24 hours for a response, longer on weekends and holidays. If you have not received a response within two business days it is appropriate to send a follow up email.
- Include the course title in the subject line
- Use a professional email address, preferably your CCNY email
- See <http://tinyurl.com/emailprof> Harris & Tyner-Mullings pp. 18-24 (<http://tinyurl.com/HTM-Emails>) for further reference

Course Schedule

Course reading list is available on Blackboard. Go to Content → Readings → Weekly Folder

Tues Aug 28 - *Introduction to the course*

Thurs Aug 30 - *Introduction to the study of race & ethnicity*

Tues Sept 4 – *Biological or Social?*

Asynchronous Day - CLASS DOES NOT MEET IN PERSON

Thurs Sept 6 – *Biological or Social?*

Thurs Sept 13 - *Where does the idea of race come from?*

Thurs Sept 20 – *Social Construction of Race Across Time and Place*

Tues Sept 25 - *Social Construction of Race Across Time and Place*

Thurs Sept 27 – *Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity – Historical Considerations*

Tuesday Oct 2 - *Boundaries and (Legal) Categorization*

Asynchronous Day - CLASS DOES NOT MEET IN PERSON

Thurs Oct 4 - *Boundaries and (Legal) Categorization*

Tues Oct 9 - *Prejudice and Discrimination*

Thurs Oct 11 - *Migration and Assimilation*

Tues Oct 16 - *Migration and Assimilation*
EXAM 1 DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS TODAY

Thurs Oct 18 - *Racialization*

Tues Oct 23 - *Latinx Americans*

Thurs Oct 25 - *Latin America*
EXAM 1 DUE TODAY

Tues Oct 30 - *Indigenous Groups*

Thurs Nov 1 - *South Africa*

Tues Nov 6 - *Catch Up Day*

Thurs Nov 8 - *African Americans*

Tues Nov 13 - *African Americans, Asian Americans*

Thurs Nov 15 - *Asian Americans*

Tues Nov 20 - *Race & Ethnicity in Europe*
EXAM 2 DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS TODAY
PART III: IMPACTS OF RACE & ETHNICITY

Tues Nov 27 - *(State) Policies of Discrimination*

Thurs Nov 29 - *Genocide*
EXAM 2 DUE TODAY

Tues Dec 4 - *Genocide*

Thurs Dec 6 - *Student's Choice topic*

Tues Dec 11 - *Future of Race & Ethnic Relations*

FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED - DUE DATE TBA