

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Sociology 114 – Introduction to Race & Ethnicity

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

An introduction to the sociological analysis of ethnicity, race, and immigration in the United States. Topics include the history of racialized and minoritized groups in the United States, patterns of interaction between racial and ethnic groups, colonialism, immigration, identity formation, prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism, racism, institutional racism, social movements for civil rights, liberation and decolonization, and the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference. *Also listed as ETHN 114. Not open to students with credit in ETHN 114.*

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Race, ethnicity, racialization
- 2) Sociological Theories of race and ethnicity
- 3) The social construction of race and ethnic boundaries and identities
- 4) The intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, national origin, immigration status, ability and/or age
- 5) Prejudice and Discrimination
- 6) Ethnocentrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy
- 7) Assimilation, Pluralism, Melting pot, Acculturation
- 8) Genocide, Colonialism and postcolonial race relations
- 9) Histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions of historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans and/or Asian Americans
- 10) A social history of immigration in the USA
- 11) Social movements, with special focus on the concepts equity, self-determination, civil rights, liberation, decolonization and anti-racism
- 12) Current issues related to struggle, resistance, social justice, solidarity and liberation as experienced by communities of color
- 13) Social and economic conditions of contemporary ethnic groups and communities in the USA

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Define and assess the concepts of race, ethnicity, racialization in U.S. society
- 2) Assess the growth and diversity of ethnic and racial groups in the United States
- 3) Examine the contributions of racial and ethnic groups to the development and mainstream culture of U.S. society.
- 4) Apply sociological theory of race and ethnic relations to past and present issues in U.S. society.
- 5) Explain how concepts of race and ethnicity are socially and politically constituted and institutionalized.
- 6) Critically discuss the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, national origin, immigration status, ability and/or age.
- 7) Appraise and debate sociological theories of inter-racial and inter-ethnic contact and conflict

- 8) Analyze and articulate the concepts of prejudice, discrimination, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, and white supremacy.
- 9) Identify and evaluate how racialized groups have coped with and struggled against prejudice, individual and institutionalized forms of discrimination, ethnocentrism, eurocentrism, and white supremacy.
- 8) Evaluate historical and contemporary government policy and practice regarding racialized and minoritized groups.
- 9) Examine critical events in the histories, cultures and intellectual traditions, with special focus on the lived-experiences, social struggles, agency and group-affirmation of the following four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans and Asian Americans.
- 10) Compare and contrast the major demographic patterns of immigrant groups who entered the U.S.
- 13) Assemble sociological tools and information to assess, understand and describe how struggle, resistance, social justice, solidarity and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues.
- 14) Analyze and articulate concepts of equity, self-determination, liberation, decolonization and anti-racism
- 15) Explain the importance of race and ethnicity in the creation of politico-cultural artistic expressions and movements.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to recognize, describe, explain and provide examples of the various topics, information and issues related to race and ethnicity.
- 2) Written analysis of controversial issues in which students are required to analyze, interpret and weight the impact of race, ethnicity and socio-historical contexts on group relations.
- 3) Group or individual projects or research papers that require students to solve practical real-world issues of inter-racial and/or inter-ethnic conflict.
- 4) Interactive group activities, in which students analyze, discuss and draw conclusions about racial and ethnic group relations.
- 5) Field-based exercises requiring students to report how research methods are used to study race, ethnicity and/or inter-racial and inter-ethnic group relations.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Group activities
- 3) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** course material; other course related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** short writing assignments; field-based exercises.
- 3) **Other:** N/A.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Desmond, Matthew, M. Emirbayer, K. Brown and V. Ray. *Race in America*. 3rd edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2025
 - b. Schaefer, Richard T. *Race and Ethnicity in the United States*. 9th edition. New York: Pearson, 2019.
 - c. Gallagher, Charles A. *Rethinking the Color Line*. 6th edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publishing, 2018.
 - d. Fischer, Kay, M.A. Viveros Espinoza-Kulick, U. Acevedo, T. Hodges, M. Leal and D. Cheshire. *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*. Open Education Resource LibreTexts, 2023.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Apply sociological theories to the histories, cultures and intellectual traditions of one or more of the following racialized groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans and/or Asian Americans.
- 2) Identify concepts such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, national origin, immigration status, ability and/or age and analyze how they intersect with race and ethnicity.
- 3) Examine and evaluate the effects of prejudice, and individual and systemic forms of discrimination.
- 4) Apply sociological theories about inter-racial and/or inter-ethnic conflict in order to formulate a personal perspective on race and ethnic relations.