I. Course Description:

This course provides an overview of racial and ethnic relations in American culture. Attention is given to historical and cultural factors involved in present structural arrangements. The main focus is on the social construction of race and ethnicity from the beginnings of European invasion to the present.

Included will be an emphasis on the social forces behind the immigration of certain groups and the push-pull factors which influenced all of these groups to enter America, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. In addition, texts and lecture will examine sociological theory and concepts which enhance understanding of minority-majority relations.
II. Course Objectives:

1. Analyzing the interrelationships of race, class, and gender and how these structures have shaped the experiences of all people in the U.S.

2. Looking at the consequences of membership in specific social categories in terms of a group’s institutional power and privileges

3. Showing how social structural patterns influence individual consciousness and individual and group interaction

4. Critically thinking about existing systems of power and privilege and examining specific systems of hierarchies and systems of domination manifest in fundamental social institutions in the U.S.

5. Using the sociological imagination to examine the place of oppressed individuals (and oppressors) and groups in historical context and in the context of contemporary social conditions

6. Looking at the process of multiculturalism with emphasis on group life and material and symbolic cultures which provide understanding of human life

7. Examining the processes of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination and how they are socially created

8. Analyzing how race and ethnicity shape the organization of institutions and how these institutions influence the group experience

9. Focusing on social change in terms of empowerment, resistance to oppression, and activism (as evidenced by new actions, groups building coalitions with others, new social structures, and new meaning systems)

III. Attendance:

Attendance is a vital factor in class discussion and provides a fundamental means of integrating, synthesizing, and organizing the material presented in text, lecture, and through other sources. Information missed may have direct consequences on performance in the class. It is your responsibility to obtain any information missed as the result of an absence. It is impossible to give you a personal lecture on material missed. Find a colleague who can help you in this area.
IV. Examinations:

There are three (3) exams including the final exam. Each exam is graded on a 100 point scale and covers approximately five (5) chapters plus articles you will be assigned to read.

Material on exams includes information from lecture, class discussion, text, handouts, and any other sources brought to the class. Format for the exams is essay.

ALL MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASS AND WILL BE IN-CLASS EXAMS WHICH WILL INCLUDE SHORT ANSWER AND IDENTIFICATION OF CONCEPTS AND THEORY IN ADDITION TO ESSAY!!!

V. Assignments:

Each of you will be responsible for a critical analysis of an article from the reader text. From the article you are assigned you should provide the following information:

- description of the issue, concern, or problem
- analysis of the particular issue, concern, or problem using sociological theory and concepts
- synthesis of the existing research
- evaluation of findings

This information will be presented in class and integrated with lecture and text material according to the course calendar.

You are also required to write a research paper on a topic of race and ethnic relations. As with the exams, the papers will be graded on a 100 point scale. The paper should describe the experiences and conditions of a particular group. Avoid an overview of the group and instead choose a specific topic that is pertinent to the group’s survival, adaptive capacity, or assimilation. We will discuss a variety of possibilities for this paper, but a good beginning would be to consult Takaki’s text for ideas.

PAPERS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE SCHEDULED DAY. ANY PAPERS NOT HANDED IN AT THAT TIME WILL RECEIVE A ZERO OUT OF 100 POINTS!!!

Some suggestions include: Education and literacy
Religion
Family structure
Occupational opportunities
Employment or unemployment
Community and neighborhood
Federal policy
Stigmas
VII. Grading Scale:

- 93-100    A
- 90- 92    A-
- 88- 89    B+
- 83- 87    B
- 80- 82    B-
- 78- 79    C+
- 73- 77    C
- 70- 72    C-
(And so on....)

VIII. Calendar for the Course:

- Jan. 10th  Sociological Perspective
- Jan. 12th  Concepts for the Course
- Jan. 15th  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – NO CLASS!!!
- Jan. 17th  Concepts (cont.) & theory of race/ethnic relations
- Jan. 19th  Chapter 1
- Jan. 22nd  Articles 2, 3
- Jan. 24th  Chapter 2
- Jan. 26th  Articles 8, 10
- Jan. 29th  Chapter 2 (cont.)
- Jan. 31st  Chapter 3
- Feb. 2nd   Articles 4, 11, 12
- Feb. 5th   Chapter 4
- Feb. 7th   Chapter 4 (cont.)
- Feb. 9th   Chapter 5
- Feb. 12th  Articles 14, 30, 34
- Feb. 14th  TEST #1
- Feb. 16th  Chapter 6
- Feb. 19th  Chapter 6 (cont.) & Article 33
- Feb. 21st  Chapter 7
- Feb. 23rd  Article 13
- Feb. 26th  Chapter 7 (cont.)
- Feb. 28th  Chapter 8
Mar.  2nd  Chapter 8 (cont.)
Mar.  5th
Mar.  7th  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS!!!!
Mar.  9th
Mar. 12th  Articles 7, 20
Mar. 14th  Chapter 9
Mar. 16th  Articles 40, 41
Mar. 19th  Chapter 10
Mar. 21st  Articles 36, 37,
Mar. 23rd  Article 39
Mar. 26th  Chapter 10 (cont.)
Mar. 28th  TEST #2
Mar. 30th  Chapter 11
Apr.  2nd  Articles 24, 25
Apr.  4th  Chapter 11 (cont.)
Apr.  6th  Paper Due!
Apr.  9th  Chapter 12
Apr. 11th  Articles 31, 35
Apr. 13th  EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS!!!
Apr. 16th  Chapter 13
Apr. 18th  Articles 15, 19
Apr. 20th  Article 27
Apr. 23rd  Chapter 14
Apr. 25th  Chapter 14 (cont.)
Apr. 27th  Last Day of Class
May  5th  FINAL EXAM (8:30a.m.–11:00a.m.)

Note: The material covered in the schedule is subject to change in order to meet the demands of the class.