

Course Prospectus for Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

Course ID and Number: SOCI 0003-301

Course Description and Level:

This first-year seminar will provide a foundation on the sociological perspectives of race and ethnicity, primarily in the United States. It begins by developing a working definition of race and ethnicity and examining racial categorization in the U.S. The first part of the course examines major themes including racial and ethnic identity, assimilation of immigrants, and forms of racism and bias. The second part of the class focuses on race and social stratification, including educational stratification, residential segregation, and mass incarceration. We will also discuss timely issues including the controversy over teaching Critical Race Theory and the AP course in African American Studies, Reparations, and the future of ethnic and racial hierarchies. Students will examine policies that have perpetuated racial and ethnic inequality as well as those that attempt to ameliorate it.

Class Structure for Fall 2023

- Classes will meet in person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:45-3:15pm. There will be no hybrid option.
- Classes will consist of a combination of mini-lectures with class discussion, small-group discussion, and activities.
- Before each class, students should complete the assigned readings and submit responses to a reading question asked about them, as well as 1-2 discussion questions based on them.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

● Reading & Discussion questions:	Each class	15%
● Collective quizzes:	Bi-weekly	10%
● Class participation:	Ongoing	10%
● Short essay:	Mon. Oct. 1	20%
● Group Presentation on Policy:	Date chosen in Oct. or Nov.	20%
● Paper/Proposal Topic & Bibliography:	Wed. Oct. 25	5%
● Paper/Proposal Thesis & Outline	Mon. Nov. 20	10%
● Final Paper/Proposal:	Thurs. Dec. 14	10%

Essential Course Policies

- Required readings:
All readings will be available electronically through the course Canvas page and the Penn libraries.