SOCIeLOGY 131AC: RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS
Class: Tu-Thurs, 2:00 – 3:30pm, 277 Cory Hall

PROFESSOR CYBELLE FOX
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Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm
Sign-up sheet: http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/wwndo

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will examine the contours of the American ethno-racial hierarchy in historical and contemporary perspective. It is designed to acquaint students with competing debates about the basic structure and evolution of the American racial hierarchy, with particular attention to the experiences of Blacks, Asians, Latinos, and European immigrants. The course focuses on a few central questions:

- Is racism disappearing or does it persist, perhaps thoroughly embedded in the structure of American society?
- Are Asians and Latinos assimilating or are they racialized?
- How were different European immigrant groups perceived when they first came to America?
- What do multiraciality and changing demographics mean, if anything, for the future of the American ethno-racial hierarchy?

PRE-REQUISITES:
Sociology 1 or Sociology 3 or consent of instructor

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Your final grade will be based on the following:
Participation: 20%
Paper outline: 10%
Final Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

Participation: Attendance at all lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. You will be responsible for all material discussed in lecture, as well as any announcements. Twenty percent of your final grade will be based on your participation in section. “Participation” includes attendance, thoughtfully contributing to section discussions by engaging both lecture and reading material, and asking pertinent questions.
**Paper:** The paper is designed to measure your engagement with the course material, which includes lectures, in-class movies, and readings. Paper prompts will be distributed in class on March 6, 2012. Your paper outline, worth 10 percent of your final grade, will be due in class March 13, 2012. The final paper, worth 30 percent of your final grade, will be due in class on April 12, 2012.

Get your outline and paper in on-time. Late outlines and papers will be penalized one third of a grade each day that it is late. The late penalty begins 15 minutes after class has begun. Outlines and papers submitted over email will also be downgraded one third of a grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam, worth 40 percent of your final grade, is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2012, from 11:30am to 2:30pm. It will consist of two short essay questions and some identifications (i.e. short answers). It will be based on material for the entire course, including all lectures and readings.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own (including copying other students’ work or using Internet resources without proper citation). Those who plagiarize will receive an F. The university might impose other sanctions. For a guide on how to avoid plagiarism, please see: [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html).

**COURSE READINGS:**
I have prepared a **course reader** for Sociology 131AC, which students can purchase at Copy Central. Two copies of the reader will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.

Students may also purchase the following REQUIRED book from the University Bookstore:


A copy of Katzenelson’s book will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.
COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1, January 17 – January 19, 2012
Introduction

No Readings

Week 2, January 24 – January 26, 2012
The Social Construction of Race: Institutions


Week 3, January 31 – February 2, 2012
The Social Construction of Race: Individual and Group Claims


Week 4, February 7 – February 9, 2012
The Declining Significance of Race?

Week 5, February 14 – February 16, 2012
Racial Attitudes and Interpersonal Discrimination


Week 6, February 21 – February 23, 2012
The Institutional Legacies of Past Racism


Week 7, February 28 – March 1, 2012
Race, Inequality, and Contemporary State Policies

Rosalee A. Clawson and Rakuya Trice, 2000, “Poverty As We Know It: Media Portrayals of the Poor,” Public Opinion Quarterly, 64:53-64*

** Paper prompts will be distributed in class on March 6, 2012. **

Week 8, March 6 – March 8, 2012
Are Asians and Latinos Becoming White?


** Your paper outline is due in class on March 13, 2012. **

Week 9, March 13 – March 15, 2012
The Racialization of Asians

Week 10, March 20 – March 22, 2012
The Racialization of Latinas/os


Week 11, March 27 – March 29, 2012

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 12, April 3 – April 5, 2012
Race and European Immigrants


** Final papers are due in class on April 12, 2012. **

Week 13, April 10 – April 12, 2012
Multiraciality


Week 14, April 17 – April 19, 2012
Changing Demographics, Cooperation, and Conflict


Week 15, April 24 – April 26, 2012
The Future of the American Racial Hierarchy


** The Final Exam will take place on Monday, May 7, 2012, 11:30am-2:30pm **