Sociology 131AC: Race and Ethnic Relations
Class: Tu-Thurs, 12:30-2:00pm, 122 Barrows Hall

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 3-5pm
Office hours sign-up sheet: http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/sxkih

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 course grade will be based on the following:
Participation: 20%
Paper 1: 15%
Paper 2: 35%
Final Exam: 30%

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. Your section grade will be based on attendance, participation, and “Weekly Notes.” See your section syllabus for more details on your section grade.

Papers: There are two papers for this course. The papers are designed to measure your engagement with the course material, which includes lectures, documentaries, and readings. Get your papers in on-time. Late papers will be penalized one third of a grade for each day that they are late.
are late. Hardcopies of the papers are due in class on the date noted. The late penalty begins 15 minutes after class has begun. All papers should be double spaced, with 1 inch margins, using 12 point, Times New Roman (or equivalent) font.

**Paper 1:** Your first paper should be 4-5 pages long. It is worth 15 percent of your final course grade. The paper prompt will be distributed in class on September 11, 2012. It is due in class on **September 18, 2014.**

**Paper 2:** Your second paper should be 10-12 pages long. It is worth 35 percent of your final course grade. Paper prompts will be distributed in class on October 9, 2012. The final paper will be due in class on **October 23, 2014.**

**Final Exam:** The final exam, worth 30 percent of your final course grade, is scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2014, 8:00-11:00am. It will be based on material for the entire course, including all lectures, section discussions, and readings.

**Academic Integrity:** 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 more on academic integrity, please look here: http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/integrity.

**COURSE READINGS:**
I have prepared a course reader for Sociology 131AC, which students can purchase at Copy Central at 2576 Bancroft Way. Two copies of the reader will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.

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


A copy of both books will also be placed on reserve at Moffitt Library.

For those worried about the costs of the readings, consider making use of course reserves or sharing a reader/book with someone else in the class. A * after a reading indicates the reading is available free of charge on-line. Please also note that Alexander’s book is available as an ebook in the UCB Library catalog.
COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1, August 28, 2014
Introduction

No Readings

Week 2, September 2 – September 4, 2014
The Social Construction of Race: Institutions


“Race: The Power of an Illusion, Episode One: The Difference Between Us,” California Newsreel. For those with Cal ID, the documentary is available to watch here (http://dpg.lib.berkeley.edu/webdb/mrc/search_vod?keyword=race+the+power+of+an+illusion). A transcript can be found here (http://newsreel.org/transcripts/racel.htm).


**Paper 1 prompt will be distributed in class on September 11, 2014**

Week 3, September 9 – September 11, 2014
The Social Construction of Race: Individual and Group Claims


**Paper 1 is due in class on September 18, 2014**

Week 4, September 16 – September 18, 2014
The Declining Significance of Race?


Week 5, September 23 – September 25, 2014
Racial Attitudes and Interpersonal Discrimination


Week 6, September 30 – October 2, 2014
The Institutional Legacies of Past Racism


** Paper 2 prompt will be distributed in class on October 9, 2014. **

Week 7, October 7 – October 9, 2014
Race, Inequality, and Contemporary State Policies


Week 8, October 14 – October 16, 2014
Are Asians and Latinos Becoming White?


** Paper 2 is due in class on October 23, 2014. **

Week 9, October 21 – October 23, 2014
The Racialization of Asians

Week 10, October 28 – October 30, 2014
The Racialization of Latinas/os


Week 11, November 4 – November 6, 2014
Race and European Immigrants


Week 12, November 11 – November 13, 2014
Multiraciality


Week 13, November 18 – November 20, 2014
Changing Demographics, Cooperation, and Conflict

Week 15, December 2 – December 4, 2014
The Future of the American Racial Hierarchy?


**The Final Exam will take place on Friday, December 19, 2014, 8:00-11:00am**