

SOCI 375: Theories and Patterns of Ethnic Relations. 2009 Spring/Summer Session

University of Calgary

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Sociology Course Outline

**Course /Section:** Sociology 375 (L 20)

**Title:** Theories and Patterns of Ethnic Relations

**Session:** Spring/Summer, 2009

**Blackboard:** <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or <http://my.ucalgary.ca>

**Sociology Website:** <http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

**Social Science Rep:** Email: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Prerequisite:** SOCI 201 or consent of the Department (Please see Calendar Description for more information)

**Note:** This course may not be repeated for credit.

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Office Hours: M/W: 2:00 – 3:00 PM or by appointment.

Lecture Time: M/W, 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

Room: ST 130

-----**Course Description/Learning Outcomes for Students**-----

Theories and Patterns of Ethnic Relations is a course that is designed to introduce students to the forms and dynamics of relations among ethnic groups around the world. Concepts such as prejudice, racism, assimilation, pluralism, and de-colonization will be examined in theoretical and cross-national contexts. The major theories of ethnic relations and trans-nationalism will also be examined, using a critical analysis of some contemporary situations and case studies, in a global and cross-national comparative approach.

It is expected that at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the basic concepts of minority groups, ethnocentrism, social behavior, social distance, and the difficulty of achieving objectivity in a multicultural society
- Understand how the social structure affects inter-group relations.
- Examine the theoretical concepts and public expectations of how minorities should fit into the society.
- Understand how social class and social standing affect race relations in the society.
- Use sociological theories to understand ethnic stratification.
- Explain the dangers of stereotyping, and its perpetuation through ethnic humor and the media.
- Explore the possible causes of prejudice and their elimination.
- Examine the complex interrelationships between prejudice and discrimination.

- Explain the three middle-range conflict theories about minority group exploitation.
- Examine the varying concepts of multiculturalism and political correctness.
- Explain the growing ethnic diversity and prominence of ethnic conflicts in societies around the globe.
- Explore the historical patterns and contemporary features of transnationalism in Canada.
- Acquire social skills appropriate for cross-cultural interaction, increase self-awareness of and respect for individual and group diversity.

\* The course will use lectures, class discussions, presentations, debates, and film(s) to examine various theories and patterns of race and ethnic relations.

-----**Course Resources**-----

Required Text:

1. Parrillo, V. N. (2007). Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Recommended Texts

1. Marger, M. (2006). Race and Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson.
2. Satzewich, V. and Wong, L. (Eds.) (2006). Transnational Identities and Practices in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press.

\* Reading materials will/may be taken from other relevant sources.

-----**Course Evaluation and Requirements**-----

**Evaluation/Weight/Due Dates:**

- Participation in class discussions: 5% (Continuous- May 14-June 26, 2008)
- Class Presentation: 10% (dates as indicated in course agenda)
- Research Proposal: 10% (Due Date: **June 3**, 2009)
- Mid Term Exam: 20% (**June 10**, 2009)
- Research Paper: 30% (Due Date: **June 17**, 2009)
- Final Exam: 25% (TBA)

**Guidelines for Assignments and Course Requirements:**

1. **Participation in class discussions (5%):** Since this course combines lectures, discussions, and class presentations, students are expected to do the assigned readings and related materials for each week before coming to class and to participate in discussions. \*Active participation in discussion is required and part of your grade.
2. **Class Presentation (10%):** Pre-assigned group members will be required to present on outlined themes using class weekly readings and materials from diverse sources and lead discussions around these themes. The students will lead the class presentation for 40 – 50 minutes using approaches that would stimulate

- and facilitate group participation and discussions. Such approaches may include role playing, setting up debates, small group discussion, role reversal situation, films, etc. Your mandate is not to present detailed and elaborate recapitulation of readings as everyone is expected to have read them, but to present a summary of materials that will refresh people's minds and plan an agenda that may take a variety of forms. The group members would be assessed in terms of (1) knowledge of the topic, (2) ability to relate and integrate the topic to other aspects of race and ethnic relations, (3) ability to keep the discussion on the topic, (4) use of innovative approaches in the class presentation, and (5) ability to involve members of the audience in the presentation/discussions. All students are required to attend and participate in all class presentations. \*Assigned grades to each group would be handed out at the end of the last presentation.
3. **Research Proposal (10%):** Proposals are to be written on a theme of your choice, relevant to any of the key concepts in the Course Agenda/Weekly readings listed in your course outline. Proposals must be submitted to the instructor for approval on or before **June 3, 2009**. Approval is required before writing the research paper. Proposals should not exceed 3 pages, typed, and double spaced. \*Guidelines for writing a proposal will be handed out, posted on the blackboard, and discussed in class during the first week of classes.
  4. **Mid-Term Exam (20%):** This will consist of multiple choice questions and definition of basic concepts and theories of race and ethnic relations covered to date. It will be written in class during the normal class period on **June 10, 2009**. \*A guideline on how to write definitions will be posted on the blackboard as well as discussed in class.
  5. **Research Paper (30%):** Your research paper will be developed from your pre-approved research proposal. Any deviation from the approved proposal must be discussed with the instructor before incorporating any changes. Your research paper should not be less than 5 pages or exceed 10 pages. It should be typed and double-spaced. \* Cover and bibliographic/reference pages are very important but do not count towards the 10-page limit. Keep in mind that grades would be given for work done in these pages as well so please do not leave them out all together. It is required that you incorporate in your research paper all the elements in your research proposal guide. However, you need to expand on the theory/theoretical framework and clearly show how you have incorporated it in your analysis. Due date: on or before **June 17, 2009**.
  6. **Final Exam 25%:** The exam will be written in June in the Registrar's designated exam period, scheduled on June 27 through June 30, 2009.

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#### -----Regulations-----

1. **Assignments** that are handed in late will be penalized 10% of the grade for that assignment per day (with exception of medical excuses or evidence of severe hardship). All students are required to make two copies of every assignment. One copy to be handed in to the instructor and the other kept by the student. In no circumstance whatsoever will the instructor be responsible for the lost or misplacement of any assignment. And if requested, a student must hand in the second exact copy of the assignment. If the student cannot produce the exact copy

- of the assignment for any reason whatsoever, s/he will receive a zero (0) for that assignment.
2. **Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resources Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.
  3. **Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.
  4. **Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.
  5. **Academic Misconduct:** Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct. All assignments must be your own original work written specifically for this course only and you must acknowledge all research sources with appropriate referencing. Cheating or submitting someone else's work as your own is a crime, which if detected, may lead to zero grade and other penalties.
  6. **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades**
    - When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
    - Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during

- the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
- Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.
  - 7. **Safewalk Services:** The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk, call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.
  - 8. **Miscellaneous:** Each student is responsible for all of the work as it is presented in this course synopsis. There is no excuse for not having read this synopsis or for not fulfilling its requirements. Any question with respect to the course requirements should be brought to the attention of the instructor as early as possible at the onset of the course.
  - 9. **Manuscript reference:** \*A guideline will be discussed in class.

-----**Academic Schedule**-----

First Day of Classes: May 14 2009  
 Victoria Day: May 18, 2009, **no lectures.**  
 Mid-term break: June 5th  
 Mid Term Examination: June 10, 2009  
 Last Day of Spring Semester Classes: June 26, 2009  
 Final Examination in Class: Scheduled on June 27-30.

**Letter Grade Equivalences (See calendar for more details)**

95 – 100 = A+	67 – 71 = C+
90 – 94 = A	63 – 66 C
85 – 89 = A-	59 – 62 = C-
80 – 84 = B+	54 – 58 = D+
76 – 79 – B	50 – 53 = D
72 – 75 = B-	00 – 49 = F

-----Course Agenda/Weekly Readings-----

Weekly Schedule		Key Concepts	Required Readings	*Recommended Readings
#	Date			
1	May 18*, 20	Introduction/requirements Some basic concepts/theories of ethnic relations	Syllabus Parrillo, Chap. 1: 1- 30	Marger, Chap. 1: 4-33
2	May 25, 27	Patterns of ethnic relations/theoretical concepts of minority integration <b>- Presentation: Group 1</b>	Parrillo, Chap. 2: 31-55	Marger, Chap. 4: 98-130
3	June 1, 3*	Ethnic Stratification/Power differentials <b>- Presentation: Group 2</b>	Parrillo, Chap. 3: 56-76	Marger, Chap. 2: 34-60
4	June 8, 10	Prejudice/Discrimination <b>Mid-term exams</b>	Parrillo, Chap. 4: 77- 104, 5: 105-120	Marger, Chap. 3: 50-77
5	June 15, 17*	Dominant – Minority Relations: *In comparison, e.g. Canada <b>- Presentation: Group 3</b>	Parrillo, Chap. 6: 121-148	Marger, Chap. 15 Satzewich & Wong (2006)
6	June 22, 24	Contemporary Patterns of Ethnic Relations <b>Presentation: Group 4</b> Revision	Parrillo, Chap, 7: 149-184	Marger, Chap. 12 Satzewich & Wong (2006)
7	June 27-30	-----Spring Final Examination-----		

- **May 18: Victoria Day. ----- No lectures**
- **June 5: No lectures**
- **June 3: Research proposal due date**
- **June 17: Research paper due date**