Instructor: Spencer Wood

Office: 129 Palmer Hall
Office Hours: 3:30-5:00 Mon. and Thur. (Feel free to make an appointment for other times.)
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DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Sociology 113 provides a basic sociological understanding of relations among racial and ethnic groups in the United States. A sociological approach includes considering race and ethnicity as social constructs that permeate all social life, are entrenched in social structures and institutions, and shift and mutate over time and place, though often in ways that reproduce existing patterns of power relations. More concretely, we will attempt to understand the ways in which race and ethnicity continually shape our experience of the world and ourselves.

Such a perspective suggests that: (1) race and racism are not merely “problems” of/for subordinate racial and ethnic groups, but are reflective of society-wide power relationships that deeply affect all of us on a daily basis; (2) that racial and ethnic categories—including “white”—can be viewed usefully as the result of historical struggles over economic resources, political access, and cultural identity, rather than as objective measures of biological difference; and (3) the institutional forms of racism, indelibly etched into this nation’s past, did not end with Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s but continue to shape social institutions today.

COURSE MATERIAL:

The required material for this class consists of four books and a reader. The books (listed below) can be purchased at the Colorado College Bookstore; the reader is available through the Sociology Department webpage, then under my name, and finally under the course title. DO NOT RUSH OUT AND IMMEDIATELY PRINT ALL OF THE READINGS. WE MAY NOT USE THEM ALL AND IT WILL WASTE A TON OF PAPER. CONSULT THE SYLLABUS CLOSELY AND ONLY PRINT OUT THE REQUIRED READINGS AND ANY OTHERS YOU KNOW YOU WILL READ. A copy of the readings is available through the reference desk of the library, as well. If you have any difficulties accessing the material, please borrow the readings from the library.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

**Assignment Summary:**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quiz</td>
<td>5 points (at my discretion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-10 pp. Paper</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35 points</td>
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**Grade Scale:**

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**Pop Quiz** (5 points to be assigned at my discretion)

**5-10 Page Study Journal Paper** (Due Monday October 10, 20 points): Overview of sociological views of race. Based on readings, class discussion, and films from the first week of class. *Better papers will integrate and include a wide variety of material.*

**Midterm Exam** (Due Friday, October 14th, 5 pm, 30 points): True/False, Short Answer, definition, and essay.

**Class Attendance and Participation** (15 points): Participation includes attendance, reading assigned materials prior to class and being able to articulate and exchange your ideas regularly. In addition to your contributions, unexcused absences or excessively late appearances will be penalized by subtracting 5 points from your grade.

**Comprehensive Final Exam** (Due Tuesday, October 25th, 5 pm, 35 points): True/False, Short Answer, definition, and essay.

**5-10 PAGE STUDY JOURNAL PAPER (20 points)**

This paper is to help you prepare for the rest of the course. It is not difficult and requires no outside reading. Instead, you are to simply summarize the first week’s readings in a coherent, logical fashion, demonstrating your familiarity with the material. These papers are to be typed, double-spaced, and should include a bibliography or works cited page. Do not overly rely on one source. Try to be inclusive, grouping scholars and ideas into bundles that can be discussed together. Due at the beginning of class, Monday, October 10th.
CLASS PREPARATION, ATTENDANCE, AND DEADLINES
You must arrive for class on time, having done all the required reading for the day, and prepared to discuss class material. This means being able to summarize the main argument of each piece, to relate the main themes of each piece to the overarching theme of the day and/or the section we are exploring, and to relate each piece to other pieces we cover that day.

NOTE: Material that is not covered or discussed in class is still fair game for written assignments and exams, so it is up to you to raise questions about material you wish to discuss if they have not yet been raised.

You may study together for daily classes but may neither discuss nor work together on any assignments. This is your opportunity to shine and I want to see you do it!

You must attend each and every class; you must arrive on time and may not leave early. You will not earn points for attendance, and you will lose five points for each unexcused absence or significantly late appearance. You must also attend the showing of each film on time, even if you have seen it before. Legitimate excuses for missing class or arriving late are limited to the following: severe illness or injury (a doctor’s note must be provided to substantiate this), a proven college-related sports event which you must attend, and/or a proven family emergency.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: Note that readings from the online reader are denoted by ®.

Monday, October 3: Class Overview,
Film, Race: The Power of an Illusion, Part I, The Difference Between Us

PART I: THE SOCIOLOGY OF RACE

Tuesday, October 4: From Social Darwinism to Robert Park

Required Reading:
Wednesday, October 5: The Historical and Social Construction of Race, Moving Toward a Racial Formation Theory of Race

Required Reading:


Thursday, October 6: A Structural Theory of Racism

Required Reading:
Doane and Bonilla-Silva, *White Out*, Chps. 6-8, pp. 81-125.


Additional Reading:


Friday, October 7: Understanding and Recognizing Racism and Discrimination

Required Reading:


PART II: WHITENESS, SLAVERY, THE STATE, AND ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

Monday, October 10: Whiteness, Privilege, and Discrimination

*Study Journals* due at start of class.

Required Reading:


Additional Reading:


**Tuesday, October 11: Whiteness, Privilege, and Discrimination, Cont’d.**

**Required Reading:**


**Wednesday, October 12: Race, Welfare, Incarceration, and Citizenship**

**Required Reading:**


**Additional Reading:**


Thursday, October 13:

Required Reading:
- Film, *Imagining Indians.*

Friday, October 14: Midterm Exam Due, 5 pm.

PART III: WEALTH, EDUCATION, SEGREGATION AND A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Monday, October 17: Wealth Inequalities

Required Reading:

Tuesday, October 18: Segregation, Class vs. Race Debate

Required Reading:

Wednesday, October 19: Race and Education

Required Reading:

Thursday, October 20: Toward a Comparative Historical Perspective with George Fredrickson

Required Reading (*Available as an Ebook, online through Tutt search engine*)
Friday, October 21: Whiteness and Color-Blind Racism: Empirical Studies


Monday, October 24: Guest Speaker, Gary R. Grant, on Environmental Justice

Required Reading:

Schedule Review Session for Final Exam.

Tuesday, October 25: FINAL EXAM DUE BY 5 pm.
Review for final and distribute final.

Wednesday, October 26: NO CLASS