

Minority Groups SOC.370

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016

Instructor: Reba Parker

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Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

Communication Response Time: e-mail 24 hrs (M-TH) discussion board 48 hrs (M-TH) Emails on weekends will be responded to on Monday, unless *Important is listed in the subject line. Please include your class number SOC 333 in the subject line in all e-mails.

Textbook(s) Required:

Schaefer, R. (2013). *Racial & Ethnic Groups*. Ed. 13th, ISBN 9780205842339.

Alexander, Michelle. (2012) *New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. ISBN-13: 978-1595586438 ISBN-10: 1595586431

Course Description:

This course examines the interaction of social and cultural groups in America; processes leading to group contact, characteristics, and contributions of ethnic groups in the United States; sources of prejudice mechanisms and problems of group adjustment; contemporary status of principal minority groups; and proposals for reduction of intergroup tensions.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop a descriptive and analytical understanding of minority diversity in the United States.
2. Explore central concepts through which sociologists investigate the history, tensions, and social change around minority status dynamics.
3. Become familiar with key debates that animate contemporary research on minority status and discrimination.
4. Consider and critique social movements revolving around minority status.
5. Collaborate effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable time-frames; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically.

Netiquette

Netiquette is a combination of the term "Network Etiquette". Because online communication generally lacks visual cues common to face-to-face interactions, you are expected to follow these standards.

Please abide by the following netiquette rules when communicating with your Course

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Use appropriate capitalization. Using all capital letters is the equivalent of yelling.
- Be mindful of "flames"-- These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Use appropriate language. Be cautious of offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Use abbreviations or acronyms only if the entire class knows them or define them for others to know.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.

- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.
- Stay positive in all communication to enhance the learning community.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assume approximately **5-7 hours per week of active work** in the course.

-- Complete the learning modules within a 1 week time-frame. -- Check the course site on E-College and your e-mail at least **4 days per week** to stay current with course work, as well as any changes or developments in the schedule. Remember, I will be able to monitor how many times you log on each week. Your active participation in discussion posts and group book report work will also be taken into consideration.

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments: This course will involve a combination of assigned readings, discussions, exams, class activities, and peer evaluation.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to participate in class. Both the readings assigned via the textbook as well as other modes of information; videos, discussions and group project activities are important elements of learning in the course. Students are expected to actively engage in the course and demonstrate developing mastery of the materials by participating on a consistent basis, keeping up with deadlines, and being an active learner.

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Grade explanation by assessment type (percentage or points toward final grade)

25% 5 Chapter Quizzes over New Jim Crow Text

20% Final Exam

20% Discussion Board

20% Midterm Exam

15% Class Participation

Chapter Quizzes: (25% of grade) Students are responsible for taking an online *timed* chapter review quiz over secondary reader (New Jim Crow). The quiz will consist of 10 objective questions with a 20 minute timeframe for completion. We will have 5 of these quizzes.

Final Exam: (20% of grade) At the end of the semester students will take a *timed* comprehensive final exam. The Final Exam will be completed on eCollege and will be 100 multiple choice and true/false format questions worth 1 point each.

Discussion Board: (20% of grade) Particular modules will have a discussion board assignment. Answers to Discussion Questions must be posted not later than Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. In response, everyone will offer at least 2 replies to the posted answers for a total of 2 replies to each Discussion Forum. The replies must be substantive, i.e., saying "good job" or "I agree" is not enough. Since Replies cannot be

done until after at least some answers are posted, the Replies are not actually due until three days later, but can be posted before then. All replies must be posted by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. in order to receive credit. Late Replies receive no credit (think of it as missing a traditional class, and therefore not being able to participate).

Midterm Exam: (20% of grade) Midway through the course you will take an exam to measure competency levels of understanding and knowledge of the course material.

Participation: (15% of grade) Were you present in the course, engaged with others, logging in multiple times a week, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - o Speakers or headphones.
 - o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset
Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
Pop-ups are allowed.
JavaScript is enabled.
Cookies are enabled.
- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - o Adobe Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - o Adobe Flash Player (*version 17 or later*) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - o Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - o Apple Quick Time <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: System Requirements for LearningStudio <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the "My Courses" tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

Pearson Learning Studio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson Learning Studio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson Learning Studio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes& Noble, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of

your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myLeo. <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

Go to the following link One Stop Shop- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

Go to the following link Academic Success Center- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

FREE MOBILE APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The **iPhone** – Pearson LearningStudio mobile Courses Apps are designed Courses for iPhone and adapted for different devices.

App

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.