

Black Studies in Sociology
SOC 123-1
Semester: Spring 2007
Time: 10:00a-10:50a, TAH-1026
Phone: (916) 278-3616 (Voice Mail)

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SYLLABUS

TEXT/READINGS

- (1) W.E.B. Dubois (1994). *The Souls of Black Folks*. Gramercy Books: New York.
- (2) W.E.B. Dubois (1992). *The Philadelphia Negro*. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia.
- (3) Pyong Gap Min (1996). *Caught in the Middle*. University of California Press: Los Angeles

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the sociological analysis of Black American life in the United States. This course will focus upon the original contributions of social scientists to Black Studies in Sociology. In this course students will be introduced to the complex phenomena of Black issues, emerging theories of race, and the cumulative scholarship on black identity, experience, socio-economic status, and social organization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the sociological foundations to the study of Black American Life. Students will examine excerpts from the original works of thinkers who have made significant contributions to the study of Black issues in United States. Students will also critically evaluate, discuss, and write about the sociology of Black Americans.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the sociological study of Black Americans.
2. Develop an understanding of the methods used in sociology in the study of Black Life in the United States
3. Investigate the importance of diversity in our society.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the contributions of Black Americans to human society.
5. Identify significant aspects of the culture, contribution and social experience of Black Americans
6. Compare and contrast experiences of various Black ethnic/racial minority groups in the U.S.
7. Explain how concepts of ethnicity, ethnocentrism and racism shape the ethnic experience in the U.S.
8. Explain how race, class, and gender, shape the ethnic experience in the United States.
9. Analyze the role culture plays in shaping and sustaining racial and ethnic groups.

EXAMS

There will be two essay examinations worth 100 points each. Each student is required to purchase a bluebook (8 1/2 by 11) prior to each regularly scheduled exam. The highest scores will go to essays: that are carefully organized and clearly stated, which are unusual in insight and application of concepts and information, and which support general statements with examples from class materials

These exams are designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of black studies. Each exam will cover information concerning the readings, lectures, and class discussions. Students must make arrangements for make-up exams within three working days of the regularly scheduled exam. Make-up exams will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the professor. (200 points possible)

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES. Students are expected to participate in five activities related to topics concerning race and ethnic relations. These activities are designed to enable students to apply information derived from the course. These activities should also stimulate discussion between group members and the class at large. (50 points possible)

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION. Students are expected to be prompt for each meeting of the class. Preparation previous to each meeting is also a must. More specifically, students should be prepared to openly discuss course topics each day of the course. Participation in class discussions is considered a key component to the course. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to provide their unique insights as time permits. Attendance is considered in rounding your final grade for the course. Those students with less than three absences for the course will be rewarded under this provision. Roll will be taken periodically throughout the course to determine your attendance.

Grading Scale:

Essay Examinations	200 points
<u>In-class Activities</u>	<u>50 points</u>
TOTAL 250 points	

A	>90%	225 - 250
B	>80%	200 - 224
C	>70%	175 - 199
D	>60%	150 - 174