SOC 224- American Minority Groups  
MW 11:00am – 12:15pm  LUB S230

Office Location/Office hours  Stephanie Baran  sbaran@uwm.edu  
Room BOL 722, Tues and Thurs: 11:00 am – 12:30pm, or by appointment.

Textbook

Articles available free on D2L

Course description

What are minorities? How are minority groups constructed? Has the United States become a melting pot of different ethnic groups or is it still a salad bowl? This class will challenge us to think about the varieties of the minority experience, including racialized minorities, but also gendered minorities and differently abled minority populations. More importantly, this class will introduce the major sociological perspectives on race and ethnic relations, and gender issues within American society. As a class, we will come to the table and examine sociological theories and ideologies of race and racism, learning how policies and institutions construct race and racism, and consider how different minority statuses may intersect with one another.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, I expect students to be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to understand the ways society affects individual behaviors, individual lifestyles, and public life.
2. Identify and explain the theoretical paradigms that try to explain majority-minority relations.
3. Understand how conceptions of minority status have changed over the course of American history.
4. Develop knowledge and awareness about the minority experience in the United States.

Credit Hours

American Minority Groups is a 3-credit course. This means on average you will spend:

- 5 hours per week in preparation - this may include reading, notetaking, completing minor exercises/assignments
- As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.
Course Breakdown

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/in-class work</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Points</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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In-Class Work (15%) In-class writing assignments that demonstrate you have completed the assigned readings, engaging in class discussions, semester-long scavenger hunt, and other activities. The lowest scores will be dropped. For extra incentive, there will be extra credit if you complete all 12 assignments.

Discussion Points (10%): For a total of seven readings of the student’s choosing, students will write one double-spaced page, size 12 font posted on D2L that analyzes the content of the reading. Please include citations if using out of class materials. You must include two original questions about the material, such as: a question about unclear understandings, details or critiques of the readings. These questions will be discussed in class. These responses and questions must be posted by 4:00pm, the day prior to class. (Therefore, if class meets on Monday, you would have to post these by 4:00 Sunday.) This will give students a chance to read each other’s thoughts and comments and think about their own understanding of the material. Also, to keep you on top of these, 3 discussion points will need to be completed by October 15th. (An example has been posted on D2L).

Midterm (25%) This exam will require you to utilize course concepts in multiple choice and short essay form.

Literature Review/Proposal (20%) You will write an in-depth literature review for this course. This will be done in stages throughout the semester in order to build your final literature review. Further information on the nature of this assignment will be provided later in class.

Final (30%): This cumulative exam will require you to utilize course concepts in multiple choice and short essay form.

Attendance, Incompletes and Code of Conduct

It is important to come to class because class assignments are an integral part of the class and your learning of the material.

Let me know immediately if you are confused or puzzled by any class material. It is much better to come for help or clarify any issues sooner rather than later!

Please respect the other students as the topics that we will discuss may be sensitive. It is important to remember that we all come to the table in different places in our experiences and our learning.
Course Calendar

Week 1: Course Introductions
9/2: Introduction, Class overview, Class race/gender genealogies

I.  Foundational Theories and Ideologies of Race

Week 2: Foundations of Racism
9/7: Chapter 6: R&R, D2L MacIntosh, Peggy “Invisible Knapsack” (to be completed in class)
9/9: Chapter 1: R&R, Rothenberg Invisible/Visible

Week 3: Sociological Theories of Racism
9/14: Chapter 7: R&R
9/16: Chapter 2; Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant, Racial Formations in the United States Chapter 4, Delgado and Stefancic, Critical Race Theory, Chapters 1 and 2. D2L

Week 4: Historical Racism (1840s – 1920s)
9/21: Chapter 2: R&R
9/23: Waters, Mary, Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America Chapter 3 D2L*

Literature Review Topic Brainstorm DUE *

Week 5: Mid-Modern Racism (1920s - Present)
9/28: Chapter 3: R&R

Week 6: Racism in the Media/Current Issues
10/5: Chapter 4: R&R
10/7: Collins, Black Sexual Politics, Various Selections, D2L
*Introduction of Literature Review Due*

Week 7: Challenging Perceptions of Feminism, Race & Midterm funtime
10/12: hooks, Feminist Theory From Margin to Center, Chapters 1 and 2. Reimagining the Movement to End Gender Violence: Anti-racism, Prison Abolition, Women of Color Feminisms, and Other Radical Visions of Justice (Transcript), Midterm Review
10/14: Midterm!

II.  Policies and Institutions

Week 8: Racism and Immigration
10/19: Chapter 13: R&R; Walia, Intro to pg. 20, Rothenberg, Chap 2; D2L
10/21: Lopez, White By Law Chapters 2 and 3; Mai Ngai, Chapter 3; D2L

Week 9: Racism and Educational Inequalities
10/26: Chapter 8: R&R
10/28: Doob, Chapter 6; Ferguson, Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black Masculinity, Chapter 2, D2L
Week 10: Racism and Criminal Justice
11/2: Chapter 11: R&R
11/4: Roberts article; Walia, pg 53-61, D2L
*Literature Review Drafts Due*

Week 11: Racism, Income and Housing Inequalities
11/9: Chapter 9 pp. 250-263, Chapter 10: R&R
11/11: Massey, *American Apartheid*; Powell, NYT article; Stewart, The Society Pages; Wade

Week 12: Racism and Environmental Justice
11/16: Chapter 12: R&R
11/18: Pulido, *Rethinking Environmental Racism*. D2L

III. Race and Intersectionality

Week 13: Different abilities, Deaf Culture & Health Care
11/23: Burch and Rembis; Dorothy Roberts, *Fatal Invention, Part 1* D2L
*Methods Draft (optional) Due!*  
11/25: Thanksgiving Break!

Week 14: Race and Gendered Discourse.
11/30: Chapter 5: R&R
12/2: Mohanty, *Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses*; Erickson, *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves*, Chapter 2; Nemoto, *Racing Romance*, Chapter 2; D2L

Week 15: Course Wrap-up: We go from here?
12/7: Chapter 14: R&R
12/9: Kivel; Incite! Anthology selections; Walia pp 249-272; Anzaldua; D2L, Final Review
*Final Literature Reviews Due! 😊

Week 16: Final Exam greatness!
12/14: TBD

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates (Dropbox)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Statement of interests (topic brainstorm)</td>
<td>9/23/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction for Literature Review</td>
<td>10/7/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Discussion Points are due</td>
<td>10/15/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10/21/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review Draft</td>
<td>11/4/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods Draft (optional)</td>
<td>11/23/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Literature Due</td>
<td>12/9/2015</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf)

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm)

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at: [http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm)

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf)

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf)

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html)

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm)

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm)

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the 9 established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Procedures for student grade appeal can be found at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm)

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.

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**Syllabus disclaimer**
Course syllabus/calendar is subject to change.