This course focuses on the concepts of race and ethnicity, their importance in society, their various manifestations, comparatively and the factors that lead to their formation, maintenance and decline. The course title is thus a misnomer because the course also investigates race and to a lesser extent nationalism. Also, it does not examine the full range of theories about ethnicity such as the mechanisms that maintain domination of particular groups, conflict between groups or the relationship between ethnicity and other identities. Unfortunately, 10 weeks is a short time to cover even our limited objectives.

The course is intended for Sociology graduate students that will take the Race and Ethnicity field exam. Thus the course readings and discussion will largely focus on theoretical issues although informed by empirical realities in the US and abroad. Whereas other courses you may have taken examine the experiences of separate ethnic groups, this course deals with race and ethnicity as a sociological issue or problem. Before enrolling, students should be well aware of these objectives and of the extensive amount of reading. The amount of readings will average about 200 pages per week.

If students are more interested in understanding empirical issues in race and ethnicity in the US and comparatively, there are other courses in Sociology that you may take. For example, I will teach a graduate seminar in the Spring (2002) on the Sociology of Mexican Americans. Also, Sociology 281, which is another required course for students taking the Race and Ethnicity field exam, is generally more limited to the United States and deals more with empirical issues.

Students will be graded according to their participation in class discussions, a weekly memo to be submitted at the beginning of each class and a take-home final. Readings will be primarily from a course reader. In addition, two books will be required and are available at the ASUCLA bookstore.

**Required books:**


**Week 1: Introduction**

**Week 2: Ethnicity: Concepts**


Week 3: Race


American Anthropological Association Statement on “Race” (14 pgs.)

Week 4: Ethnicity: Theories


Geertz, Clifford. 1963. “Primordial Ties,” (pp. 40-45) in Ethnicity, edited by John Hutchinson and


**Week 5: Race and Society**


Week 6: Comparative Historical Perspectives on Race


Week 7: Marxist Perspectives

Marxist


Greenberg, Stanley B. 1980. “Capitalist Growth and Persistent Racial Domination,” (pp. 385-410) in


**Week 8: Weberian and Other Structural Perspectives**

Weberian


Others


**Week 9: Assimilation**


**Week 10: Racialization and Ethnogenesis**


