

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

5210 Grand Avenue

P. O. Box 3649

Fort Smith, AR 72913–3649

479–788–7000

General Syllabus**GEOG 31233 Race, Ethnicity, and Place in America**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Semester: 2016-2017

I. Course Information**A. Catalog Description**

Appraises economic, political, legal and social institutions that played pivotal roles in the evolution of American racial geography. Hispanic-American, African-American, Asian-American and European-American cultures are examined.

B. Additional Information

Lectures, videos, written assignments, examinations, group discussions, and activities.

II. Student Learning Outcomes**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Deconstruct the concepts of race, ethnicity, racialism and racism.
2. Distinguish among geographic concepts of place.
3. Demonstrate how race and place in American metropolitan areas are closely linked.
4. Examine the historical and geographical contexts of racial issues in the U.S.
5. Compare and contrast concepts of segregation, assimilation, acculturation and integration and apply them to interpret current immigration issues.
6. Compare and contrast the characteristics and spatial distribution patterns of minority groups in America.
7. Examine the historical and geographical contexts of racial issues in the U.S.
8. Appraise the roles that individuals, private institutions and governmental policies play/have played in shaping contemporary geographic patterns in the U.S. as well as the racial inequalities that they foster/have fostered.

9. Analyze and dissect disparities in the distribution of income, housing and basic services (e.g. banks, real estate, public services) between inner cities and their suburbs, and among black “ghettos,” Hispanic “barrios,” and white neighborhoods in American metropolitan areas.
10. Compare and evaluate the lack of environmental equity/justice across demographic groups, social classes and geographic areas in urban America.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will recognize and analyze ethical dilemmas.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Major concepts of human geography including race, place, ethnicity, racism, segregation, assimilation, acculturation, and equity
- B. Urban geographies of ethnic enclaves, ghettos, barrios, and neighborhoods of privilege in the United States
- C. Laws, regulations, and policies that affect/have affected immigration into the United States
- D. Laws, regulations, and policies that affect/have affected urban settlement patterns for racial/ethnic groups in the United States
- E. Equity issues that affect/have affected racial/ethnic groups in the United States
- F. The actions of economic, legal, political, and social institutions that have helped create today's American urban settlement patterns