

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 31903 Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 10103 Introduction to Sociology

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the social construction of race, ethnicity, and indigenous identities in the United States and in the fort Smith region. Distinguishes between individual racism and institutional racism and examines white privilege. Tracks the consequences of prejudice, discrimination, and implicit biases on individuals and groups.

B. Additional Information

This course is an elective for the Sociology and Diversity Studies minors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Analyze the power of the U.S. system of racial classification.
2. Evaluate and analyze various topics and current issues of critical importance to the social construction of race and ethnicity in the United States.
3. Contrast life chances of whites, African Americans, Latin Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.
4. Critique the U.S. system of ethnic classification.
5. Explore the complex issue of challenging and modifying classification schemes
6. Examine what it means to be Indigenous.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Personal Experience of Classification Schemes
- B. Classifying People by Race
- C. Ethnic Classification
- D. The Persistence, Functions, and Consequences of Social Classification
- E. Toward a New Paradigm: Transcending Categories
- F. Implicit bias
- G. Prejudice and discrimination
- H. Indigeneity