Sociology 445: Sociology of Race Relations  
Spring 2009

**Instructor:** Aaron Gullickson  
**Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:20pm  
**Location:** 112 Esslinger Hall  
**Office Hours:** 719 PLC, Thursday 11:30-1:30pm

Ultimately we care about the concepts of race and ethnicity because of their deployment in struggles over power and resources. This class focuses on how racial and ethnic inequality is generated and maintained. The readings will cover theoretical perspectives on racial/ethnic stratification and empirical findings. The course will cover a wide time period, but will focus primarily on contemporary issues in the United States.

**Course Requirements**

*Session Memos*

Several questions about each week’s readings will be posted to Blackboard, along with the readings. You should post your responses to these questions on Blackboard by 10am on Tuesday of that week. Responses should be succinct and limited to 1-3 paragraphs per question. Memos will be graded as “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory.” You may skip two memos during the quarter.

*Paper*

The paper should be a thorough literature review of some topic we have covered in class. Students are expected to do further reading on this topic and the paper should cover the theoretical perspectives, current debates, and empirical findings on the topic as it stands today. I expect that the papers will be between 8-12 pages long, double-spaced.

Students are responsible for determining what further readings are necessary, but it is important that this bibliographic search be comprehensive and focuses exclusively on academic texts, and not popular press references. I will discuss the paper in more detail mid-way through the quarter.

*Class Participation*

Students are expected to attend class regularly and should also regularly contribute to class discussions on the topics we have read.

**Course Evaluation**

Grading for the course will be determined by three factors: (1) final paper, (2) weekly memos, and (3) class participation. The grade on the final paper will constitute the
“baseline” grade. Students who have completed all of their memos will receive a one-grade increase from this baseline grade. Students who have not completed all of the weekly memos will not receive a grade boost and may receive a grade penalty, depending on how many memos were missed. Students who have been active participants in classroom discussion will also receive a one-grade boost.

Readings

Most of the readings are articles or extracts from books and are available as PDF files on Blackboard. In addition, we will read three books in their entirety:


These texts are not available at the UO Bookstore. Please acquire them from the online vendor of your choice.

Schedule

**Week 1: Classic Assimilation Theory**


**Week 2: Conflict/Competition Approaches**


**Week 3: Boundary Formation**

Week 4: Historical Perspectives


Week 5: Post-Civil Rights Changes


Week 6: Segregation


Week 7: Immigration and Assimilation Theory, reloaded


Week 8: Educational Inequality


Week 9: Labor Market Inequality


**Week 10: The Future?**

