

Common Course Outline
SOCL 141
RACIAL AND CULTURAL MINORITIES
3 Semester hours

Description

Racial and Cultural Minorities

Examines race and ethnic relations in America from an historical and sociological perspective, focuses on the response of the dominant society to minority groups; examines current controversial issues that affect racial and ethnic minorities.

Prerequisites: (RDG 052 or LVR 2) and (ENGL 052 or ESOL 052 or LVE 2 or LVE 3),

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Identify and apply the key concepts sociologists use to analyze racial and ethnic relations through collaborative learning (I, II, III, VI, 3, 7);
2. Conceptually describe and analyze the importance of understanding the historical experiences of racial and ethnic minorities (III, 1, 4);
3. Compare and analyze how political and structural factors have and continue to impede the progress of racial and ethnic minorities (III, 1, 3);
4. Assess and evaluate how the history of race and ethnic relations has affected the present day situation (V, 1, 3);
5. Describe and evaluate the relationship between racism and various social problems (V, 1, 3);
6. Through collaborative learning experiences, compare the voices of members of racial and ethnic minorities and analyze how this enables us to better understand our own lives (II, III, V, 5, 7, 8);
7. Summarize and compare current issues of controversy with regards to race and ethnic relations and work collaboratively to identify solutions (II, III, 10);
8. Analyze and assess how competing visions of who we are as a society have and continue to affect the lives and futures of ethnic and racial minorities (V, 3);

9. Assess and evaluate the critical importance of ethnic and racial diversity to the discussion and understanding of diversity in American society today (V, 3);
10. Assess and support the importance of community for an ethnic subculture as a result of a first hand experience in a subculture unfamiliar to the student or in other field trips or activities (I, III, V, 5, 8, 9).

Major Topics

- key concepts in the field of race and ethnic relations
- historical experiences of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States
- the importance of the Civil Rights Movement in changing race relations in the United States
- how institutional racism differs from individual discrimination
- the relationship of racism to social problems
- the importance of understanding how personal experiences are affected by one's minority status
- current issues of controversy affecting minority groups
- the difference between diversity and multiculturalism
- the importance of community in the lives of racial and ethnic minorities
- the future of diversity in the United States

Course Requirements (VI)

Grading

Grading Procedures and exact weighting for each measure will be determined by each individual faculty member and provided to the student in writing the first week of class. However, all students will

1. Complete at least two examinations during the semester;
2. Complete at least one special project, oral presentation, service learning, or computer project;
3. Complete one written assignment (at least 1,000 words) on a course related topic.