

Sociology of Race and Racism

(formerly Racial & Ethnic Relations)

SOC 200

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the sociology of race and racism. This course approaches racial issues from a sociological point of view, which means it will have a structural and institutional focus. We will discuss various institutions and how race shapes them (e.g., labor market; health; immigration).

Learning Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

- Discuss key concepts and theories related to the study of race and racism.
- Apply sociological concepts to understand the relationship between the history of race, racial ideologies, and different policies and institutions (e.g., education; housing; criminal justice system).
- Critically consume popular writing on racial issues.
- Analyze issues related to race and racism in their everyday lives.

Required Course Material

There is no required book for this class. All readings are available on Blackboard.

Assignments

Your final grade will be calculated out of 520 total points. For example, if you earn 420 total points, your final grade will be a B- (81%). Class points are earned via three components:

I. *Reading quizzes* – 100 points total (10 points each reading assessment; 5 points each class activity)

Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of every class that a reading assignment is due. **No makeup quizzes will be given.** Over the semester, you have the opportunity to earn 120 quiz points. I divide your final grade by 100 points meaning that you can miss points from 2 quizzes with no effect on your grade.

II. *Media Analysis Paper* – 120 points (100 points paper; 20 points outline)

You are required to submit one paper in this course (650 word minimum), connecting the issues presented in a movie, television, song, or other cultural production to topics discussed in class. You are free to choose any class topic to write about, as long as we have covered it in lecture. You must explain the worldview presented in sociological terms (i.e. what sociological perspectives/concepts do they use; how do those perspectives/concepts influence the storyline) and present a sociological-based analysis.

This paper is due in **via Blackboard** (no hard copies accepted) by **10am on Thursday, December 19th**. For every full day that the paper is late, your grade will be lowered by 10%.

At the Media Analysis Workshop (10/8/19), you will receive two handouts. You must fill out the “Media Analysis Outline” and turn it in on **Thursday, October 24th**. I will review your outline to ensure that you are on the right track and have chosen an appropriate topic. Your outline should detail which cultural production you have chosen, the concepts you will use in your analysis, the argument you will make, and the 2 references you will use in your paper. This outline contributes 5 points towards your final media paper grade.

III. *Exams* – 300 points (100 points each)

Each exam will be on material covered since the previous exam.

All exams will be on Blackboard. You will have 3 days to complete each exam. Each exam will be timed and must be completed in 1 hour and 30 minutes. Make sure that you block out the full 90 minute period as you will not be allowed to return to the exam once you start it. Exams are open note, but you are expected to work individually. Consulting with classmates during the exam is considered cheating and a violation of academic honesty (see below).

Course Policies

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own, including copying other students' work or using Internet resources without proper citation. All work that you submit is assumed to be your own unless you cite source material. If you use words (either exact or paraphrased), facts, or ideas from another document (including course materials and web pages), you must cite them. Not doing so is considered plagiarism, and the result will be a zero on the assignment. Students are required to adhere to the University Policy on Academic Standards and Cheating as delineated in the Catalog of Undergraduate Programs (available at: http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code).

Accessibility Policy

The University of Massachusetts-Boston is committed to providing accommodations for all students with disabilities (including learning disabilities, ADHD, depression, and health conditions). This syllabus is available in alternate format upon request. Students must be registered with the Ross Center for Disability Services, UL 211, www.ross.center@umb.edu, 617-287-7430 before requesting accommodations from the instructor.

U-ACCESS & Campus Resources

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS), located in the Campus Center 2nd Floor, Suite 2401; 617.287.3190; u-access@umb.edu. If you are experiencing other difficulties that are affecting your academic performance, please reach out to the Dean of Students Campus Center 4th Floor; 617-287-5899; dean.students@umb.edu. If you feel comfortable sharing this with the professor, please contact me and I will try to connect you with any resources I have.

Attendance

You are expected to regularly attend and participate in class. If you are absent, please make sure to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions after acquiring the notes, please see me during office hours or set up an appointment. Class notes will not be posted online.

Missed or late assignments

If you are absent you are still expected to complete your assignments on time. Only under extenuating circumstances will late assignments be accepted – subject to my discretion. You must have documentation from an appropriate official. You will receive a zero on your exams if your absence was due to non-extenuating circumstances.

If you miss class due to a school sponsored event (e.g., athletic competition), you must have a note from your coach or faculty sponsor. This note must include the specific dates you will miss class and you must notify me before your scheduled event.

Writing Assistance

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing tutoring available at UMB. The Reading, Writing, and Study Strategies Center offers students free help to identify and address difficulties you may have. See the center's [website](#) for more information.

Assistance with Course Material

If you need help with the course material, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me or stop by my office hours. The material in this course is somewhat cumulative; the concepts from one week will help you discuss and better understand the following week's topics. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss your performance in class.

Contacting Instructor

E-mail is the best way to contact me. Remember, our relationship in this class is a professional one and the way you address me should reflect that (e.g., "Dear Professor Mayorga-Gallo," not "Hey"). Please use complete sentences and avoid text message abbreviations.

I will try to respond to your e-mails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours during the weekend.

Electronic Devices

Please make sure that all cell phones, iPods, and other non-essential electronic devices are turned off and stored during class. If you prefer to type your notes during class,

laptops are allowed. If it is obvious, however, that you are not using your laptop for note-taking, you will be asked to put your laptop away.

Policy on Grade Changes

Requests for a grade change must be made in writing within one week of receiving the grade. I will reevaluate the assignment taking the reasons for the grade change request into consideration. Please note that any assignment reevaluation may also highlight flaws that I missed during the first reading and result in a lower grade. Once final grades have been submitted, however, they are non-negotiable.

Grading Scale

A 100-94 (excellent)

A- 90-93

B+ 87-89

B 84-86 (good)

B- 80-83

C+ 77-79

C 74-76 (satisfactory)

C- 70-73

D+ 67-69

D 64-66 (poor)

D- 60-63

F 0-59 (failure)

Potential Changes to Syllabus

I maintain the right to make any changes to the syllabus throughout the semester to ensure all students are gaining the most they can from the course. I promise to inform all students of any changes to the schedule as soon as I make them.

Course Schedule

	Lecture Topic and class activities	Due at the beginning of class
Tue., Sep. 3	Introduction to course	
Thu., Sep. 5	Video: <i>Race: The Power of an Illusion</i>	

Tue., Sep. 10	The origin of the idea of race	
Thu., Sep. 12	The origin of the idea of race	Gans Morning <i>Virginia is for lovers</i>
Tue., Sep. 17	Racial boundaries in the US	Alba Telles Lee & Bean
Thu., Sep. 19	Racial ideologies	
Tue., Sep. 24	Racial ideologies	Rondini Osuji Mills
Thu., Sep. 26	Spreading ideologies	
Tue., Oct. 1	Spreading ideologies	Huyser Yuen & Ray DuCros et al
Thu., Oct. 3	<i>Media Analysis Workshop</i> Exam 1 posted	
Tue., Oct. 8	Whiteness	
Thu., Oct. 10	Whiteness	McIntosh DiAngelo Daniels
Tue., Oct. 15	Theories of racism	
Thu., Oct. 17	Theories of racism	Omi & Winant McArdle Glenn
Tue., Oct. 22	Education Media Analysis Outline due	
Thu., Oct. 24	Education	Carter Moore Renzulli & Roscigno Farkas & Morgan
Tue., Oct. 29	Jobs & income	

Thu., Oct. 31	Jobs & income Exam 2 posted	Emeka (<i>additional: Herring</i>) Dodson & Luttrell Dobbins, Kalev, & Kelly
Tue., Nov. 5	Housing & wealth	
Thu., Nov. 7	Housing	Farley Gilbert & Goodman Pellow & Brulle
Tue., Nov. 12	Wealth	Seamster Oliver & Shapiro
Thu., Nov. 14	Criminal justice system	
Tue., Nov. 19	Criminal justice system	Kramer, Remster, & Charles Chancer Zarrugh & Romero (<i>additional: Tomaskovic-Dewey & Warren</i>)
Thu., Nov. 21	Video: 13th	
Tue., Nov. 26	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Thu., Nov. 28	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Tue., Dec. 3	Immigration	
Thu., Dec. 5	Immigration	Flores & Schachter Romero Beaman
Tue., Dec. 10	Racial justice	
Thu., Dec. 12	Racial justice Exam 3 posted	Conley Brown & Jones Collins
Thu., Dec. 19	Media Analysis Paper due	

Note: Reading assignments must be completed by the beginning of the class date they are listed under. All reading assignments are posted under "Readings" on Blackboard.