

Seminar on Racism SOC 386

Spring 2019

Prof. Nelson A. Pichardo Almanzar

Office: SAMU 232; Phone: 963-1348; email: pichardn@cwu.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 11-1 or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the United States, as well as throughout much of the world today, people designated as "white" are the dominant group. This course explores racism and sexism at the intersection of class and gender oppression as a central and enduring principle around which the United States is structured. We will analyze the origin, nature, and consequences of racism. Topics we will explore include: the sociological perspective as a way of understanding how racism is organized and maintained; the meaning of race as a social fact and social construction; the economics of racism; the politics of racism; racism in education, housing, employment, and the criminal justice system; culture and ethnicity; white racist ideology and stereotypes; the social psychology of racism; everyday racism.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Golash-Boza, Tanya M. 2015. *Race & Racisms: A Critical Approach*. NY: Oxford Press.

Other Assigned materials are posted on CANVAS. Reading schedule posted on CANVAS under MODULES tabs.

SEMINAR FORMAT:

This class is structured as a seminar which means that the goal is to get a conversation going. That means two things. First, everybody must do the assigned readings before the week in which the topic is discussed. Second, it means that everybody is expected to participate. So attendance is required.

ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be asked to submit an autobiography centered on telling me something about you while focusing on issues and experiences regarding prejudice and discrimination (racial, sexual, etc.).

GRADING:

Grading will be based on attendance and participation. Participation will be judged on frequency of participation and the integration of the readings and videos into your discussions. The autobiography is required and will be graded pass/fail. Failure to hand in autobiography will lower your maximum grade to a B+.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is required and mandatory. I will be taking attendance. There are a total

of twenty class meetings. For each of two classes you miss without good reason, your maximum possible grade will be reduced one step. So, if you miss three to four classes (without excuse) the highest grade you can attain is an A- If you miss five to six classes, your highest grade possible will be a B+ and if you miss seven to eight classes, your highest grade possible will be B, and so on. Failure to attend regularly will have serious impact on your grades. Much of the material needed to do well in the class is only available through lecture participation.

PHILOSOPHY:

There is no single best method for learning about racism, no simple road map to take us where we need to go with this subject material. Hence, we will have to build an understanding of prejudice, discrimination and racism together.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

Course Prefix and Number Soc 386 - Seminar on Racism	
Learner Outcomes	Assessment
Students will be able to identify the factors that make racism a central and enduring principle around which United States institutions are constructed.	Students will take an exam and correctly identify the factors that make racism a central and enduring principle around which United States.
Students will identify the origin, nature, and consequences of racism.	Students will take an exam and correctly identify the origins, nature, and consequences of racism.
Students will apply the concepts of oppression and resistance to the analysis of racism in the United States.	Students will participate in classroom activities in which they apply the concepts of oppression and resistance to the analysis of racism in the United States.

INCOMPLETE POLICY: Incompletes will only be allowed under specific circumstances. The student must present a compelling reason for being granted an INC (incomplete). What constitutes compelling circumstances is up to me but under no circumstances will an INC be awarded unless the student has consulted with me and petitioned for an INC before grades are submitted.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT: Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.

CANVAS: CANVAS is an integral part of the course. All assignments and readings are

posted on CANVAS. You are expected to know how to use Canvas, including uploading assignments, using discussion boards, and taking tests. If you are unfamiliar with using this program there are tutorials available to you under the Online Learning site <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students> . If you have technical difficulties, try using an alternate browser (Firefox, Explorer, Chrome, etc.). If problems persist, contact IT to get additional training or to find out how to change your settings. Although I manage the materials on the site I am not in a position to resolve technical problems.

Final Exam: University policy requires a final exam be administered. Your final is to provide a summary of each of the chapters in the Golash-Boza text followed by what you learned from the class. So, that is ten chapter summaries with your own commentary. Highly suggested that you complete the summaries as we go along.

Weekend Discussion Boards

Since this class meets only twice a week for 200 minutes, when we are supposed to meet by law for 250 minutes per week, we are required to assign work to fill this gap. These are required materials and activities. They are assigned for each weekend. This is a pass/fail assignment. Anyone failing to adequately participate in a timely manner will get 0/10 for the effort. Ignoring this or doing it at half effort will seriously impact your grade.