

SOCIOLOGY 318 – RACE, CLASS, & GENDER

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COURSE CREDIT: Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES: Sociology 201 (Introduction to Sociology)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Rothenberg, Paula S. (2004). *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States*. New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 0-7167-5515-7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The focus of this course is on the interrelated, ascribed statuses of race, social class, gender, and sexual orientation in American society, how they are perceived and reinforced, the social tensions that result, and the dynamics of change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The goal of this class is to explore and clarify the differences between the concepts: race, ethnicity, and minority group; upper, middle, and lower classes; sex and gender; heterosexual and homosexual orientations; prejudice and discrimination. Students should become acquainted with the nature of both personal and institutional responses to race, class, and gender. In addition, the course will focus on contemporary and historical responses to the social tensions resulting from conflict over race, class, and gender such as affirmative action, the welfare system and other entitlement programs, and multiculturalism and diversity programs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Since there are three exams, I have divided the reading for the course into three sections. While I have specific required readings, I suggest you read at least a couple of extra articles in Parts I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the text. This will help you integrate the material, put concepts in context, and get a more complete understanding of the discipline of sociology. As noted above, you are required to take three proctored exams and the *Guidelines for Proctored Exams* and the *Examination Request* forms are included after the **COURSE WORK SCHEDULE** information in this study guide. Each exam is multiple choice and is worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points. *Please send your exam request form two to three weeks before you plan to take the exam.*

In addition, you will be required to write five (5) essays on the information from each part of the text that is on the exams. These writing assignments are a way for me to evaluate your progress through the course. Each writing assignment is worth 20 points, thus they add up to 100 points, or the equivalent of one exam. They are one-fourth of your final grade.

Read the complete sections of the text before attempting the writing assignments. Just as your exams cover material from assigned articles in the text, the writing assignments focus on these same assigned readings. Thus, when you prepare the writing assignments, you are taking a step toward preparing for the exams. In the next section of this study guide you will find the **COURSE WORK SCHEDULE**. Note that **you must mail in your writing assignments that cover Parts I - II, Parts III - V, and Parts VI - VIII before you take the exam for that section of the text.**

Contact me at any time if you need clarification on some aspect of the course requirements, especially the writing assignments. You may want guidance on the first couple of writing assignments in order to get comfortable with the writing sociologically.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Exam #1 over Parts I and II of text:	100 points
Exam #2 over Parts III, IV, and V of text:	100 points
Exam #3 over Parts VI, VII, and VIII:	100 points
Writing Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5:	100 points
TOTAL:	400 points

GRADING SCALE:

360 – 400 = A
320 – 359 = B
280 – 319 = C
240 – 279 = D
0 - 239 = F