

**University of Toronto**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 210H: Ethnic Relations**  
Fall Term 2012  
Tuesday 4pm- 6pm

Instructor: Dr. Baljit Nagra  
Office Hours: Friday 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm, or by appointment  
Office: 725 Spadina Ave., Room 371  
E-mail: [baljit.nagra@utoronto.ca](mailto:baljit.nagra@utoronto.ca)

## **Course Description**

*The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line --- W. E. B. Du Bois*

This course provides a sociological understanding of how ethnic and racial identities shape and are shaped by economic, political, historical and social factors. In the first part of the course we will look closely at different concepts, definitions and ideas to the study of ethnicity and race and in doing so we will examine important empirical studies done on various ethnic groups in different settings. We will also use key concepts and theories from the course to understand everyday experiences of race and current contemporary issues. Next we will review how different sociological approaches such as the Assimilation Approach, Segmented Assimilation and Transnationalism have understood immigrant integration in western nations. We will conclude the course by looking at important issues surrounding ethnic and race relations in Canada.

**NOTE:** The prerequisite to take SOC210H1F is SOC101Y1 OR SOC102H1 OR SOC103H1. Students without the prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered.

## **Course Materials**

- 1) There is one required text book that is available for purchase at the University of Toronto book store:

Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. (2007). **Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World** (Second Edition).

I strongly recommend that you buy this book. However, I have also placed a copy on short term loan at course reserves at Robarts.

- 2) There is one course reader in the course and it is available for purchase at the University of Toronto book store.

## Course Evaluation

Test #1 (short answer questions) – 25% (October 9)

Academic Journal – 20% (November 6)

Critical Film Assignment – 30% (November 27)

Test #2 (multiple choice) - 25% (December 04)

No Final Exam in the Exam period

**Test 1 (25%):** the in-class test will assess your knowledge of materials covered from week 1 to week 4. The format of the test will be short answer questions and it will be two hours long.

**Academic Journal (20%):** Personal issues are often also political issues, because people fit into and are impacted by social and political structures. During the course you will be required to keep an academic journal in order to make the connection between the personal and the political. In the academic journal you will make entries where you will be asked to relate issues raised in the course to your personal experiences. You will be required to make a total of **FOUR** entries in the journal. The questions for the entries will be given to you **IN CLASS** only as this is a way for me to measure attendance and participation. Each journal entry should be 350 words in length (approximately 1 – 1.5 typed pages and double spaced). Your academic journal with all the four entries is due on November 06.

**Critical Film Assignment (30%):** For this assignment you are expected to write a 5 – 7 page critical review of either the movie CRASH or the HELP. In this assignment you need to apply the different concepts, perspectives and ideas studied in this course in order to discuss the experiences of the characters in this film and to analyze how race relations play out in the film. You will be required to draw on and reference course readings and lecture materials for the assignment. More information about this assignment will be posted on blackboard.

**Test Two (25%):** The final test will assess your knowledge of all material covered in lectures and assigned readings from week 6 to week 12. It is not cumulative. The test may contain multiple choice questions and/or very short – point form questions. More information will be provided on final test closer to the exam date.

## Class Expectations

**Respect** must be paid to everyone in the class. Since this course involves sensitive issues it is important to remember that everyone has a different identity and different experiences and that everyone's perspective is relevant. It is alright to disagree with others including me but it is important to remember that you must also respect others right to disagree with you.

**Please** also try your best to not distract other students during the class. Do not talk to each other or cause any other disturbance during the lecture. Turn off all electronic communication devices,

and use lab tops for only note taking. Please turn off cell phones through the duration of the class.

**Attending** the course lecture is an important part of the course. Material that is not covered in the course texts will be discussed during the lectures and will be on the tests. Crucial information about the course is provided in the lectures. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to get the information that you have missed from one of your peers.

**Missed Tests or late assignments** Please note that exemptions for missed tests will only be made for medical reasons or very special circumstances. All students are to hand in their assignments on the due date at the beginning of the lecture. The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day including weekends. This penalty is strictly enforced unless proper documentation of medical illness is provided. Please note that requests for medically based exemptions must be accompanied by a U of T form signed in legible handwriting and completely filled out with address and CPSO registration number. This form can be found at the back of this syllabus and is also available from <http://www.healthservice.utoronto.ca/pdfs/medcert.htm>. All late assignments should be dropped off in Room 225 (open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), at 725 Spadina Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Please use the date/time stamp machine and place in the second year drop box.

**Getting Help** Do not hesitate to contact me or the TA if you need assistance. However, if you cannot meet with us during regular scheduled office hours, we can make an appointment to meet with you at another time. However, do not contact us for information that is easily available on this syllabus or the course website.

## **Reading and Class Schedules**

### **Week 1 (September 11). Introduction to Course and Sociology of Ethnicity.**

Reading: Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 1 ‘The Puzzles of Ethnicity and Race’

### **Week 2 (September 18). Concepts and Definitions of Ethnicity and Race.**

Readings: Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 2 ‘Mapping the Terrain: Definitions  
Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 3 (pg. 51-58) ‘Fixed or Fluid? Alternative Views

### **Week 3 (Sept 25). A Social Constructionist approach to ethnicity**

Reading: Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 4 ‘A Constructionist Approach’  
Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 6 ‘Contextual Factors in the Making of Identities’

### **Week 4 (October 2). Empirical Studies on the Social Construction of Ethnicity**

Reading: Cornell and Hartmann – Chapter 5 (pg.126 – 133)

Espiritu, Yen. 1992. *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. (Chapter One – Ethnicity and Panethnicity)

Nagra, Baljit (2011). 'Our Faith Was also Hijacked by those People': Reclaiming Muslim Identity in Canada in a Post 9/11 Era'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. 37(3), 425-441.

**Week 5 (October 9).**

**Test #1**

**Week 6 (October 16). Intersectionality/Internalized oppression**

Readings: Reynoso, Julissa 2004. Perspectives on Intersections of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Other Grounds: Latinas at the Margins, *Harvard Latino Law Review*

Hoodfar, H. 1993. The Veil in their Minds and on our Heads: The persistence of Colonial Images of Muslim Women. *Journal for Resources for Feminist Research*, 22(3/4), 5-18.

Pyke, Karen (2010). What is Internalized Racial Oppression and Why Don't We Study it? Acknowledging Racism's Hidden Injuries.

Parmer, Twinet (2004). Physical Attractiveness As a Process of Internalized Oppression and Multigenerational Transmission in African American Families.

**Week 7 (October 23). White Privilege**

Wise, Tim.2008. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. Brooklyn: Soft Skull Press. (Preface and Chapter One – Born to Belonging)

Peggy, McIntosh. 1988. *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*

**Week 8 (October 30). Racialized Violence**

Razack, Sherene. 2002. *Race, Space and Law* (Chapter 5: Gendered Racialized Violence and Spatialized Justice: The Murder of Pamela George)

**Week 9 (November 6). Sociological Approaches to Immigration: Assimilation, Segmented Assimilation and Transnationalism**

Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993 'The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and its Variants', *The ANNALS of the Academy of Political and Social Science* 530, November, pp. 74-96.

Waters, Mary. 1999. *Black Identities: West Indian immigrant dreams and American realities*.

Espiritu, Yen Le. 2003. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: University of California Press (Chapter One – Homemaking)

**Academic Journal Due**

**Week 10 (November 13).**

Reading Week

**Week 11 (November 20).**

No Class – Extended office hours for Critical Film Assignment

**Week 12. (November 27). Multiculturalism in Canada.**

Kymlica, Will. 1998. *Finding Our Way: Rethinking Ethnocultural Relations in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Chapter One: Setting the Record Straight)

Okin, Susan Moller 1999. *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* New Jersey: Princeton University Press. (Chapter One)

**Critical Film Assignment Due**

**Week 13 – December 04**

**Test #2**

**Undergraduate Grade Scale**

Grade Meanings Refined Letter Grade Scale Numerical Scale of Marks

	A +	90-100%
Excellent	A	85-89%
	A -	80-84%
	B+	77-79%
Good	B	73-76%
	B-	70-72%
	C+	67-69%
Adequate	C	63-66%
	C-	60-62%
	D+	57-59%
Marginal	D	53-56%
	D-	50-52%
	Inadequate	F