SOCIOLOGY 4323: CULTURAL AND RACIAL MINORITIES
FALL 2016
Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-1:45pm, Pafford 110

Instructor: Celeste Lee  
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Email: celestel@westga.edu  
Phone: 678-839-6325  
Office Hours: Monday 5pm-6pm, Wednesday 11am-12pm, or by appointment

Course Description:
In this course we will explore historical and contemporary patterns of race and ethnic relations in the United States. The class is divided into three sections. In the first section, we will examine sociological theory on race, ethnicity, and racial/ethnic group relations. Specifically, we will explore the following questions: In what ways are race and ethnicity socially constructed? What is the difference between race and ethnicity? What are the competing definitions of race and racism? And, how do we explain race and ethnic stratification?

In the second section of the course, we will turn our attention to an exploration of the social histories of racial groups in the U.S. (Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites). In this section we will investigate each group’s experience in the U.S. We will give special attention to the following questions: How has each group been incorporated into the U.S. social structure? What role did race, ethnicity, and/or gender play in shaping groups’ experiences in the U.S. context? And, how does each group’s social history relate to their contemporary experiences in the U.S.?

In the last part of the course we will use the theoretical lens and historical lens, developed during the first two parts of the course, to analyze contemporary race relations in the U.S and the role that race plays within U.S. social institutions. In doing so, we will seek to answer the following questions: What is the contemporary significance of race and ethnicity in the U.S.? What’s the relationship between race and inequality with regard to mass incarceration? And lastly, what does the future hold for race and ethnic relations in the United States?

Learning Outcomes:
- LO1: Communicate in writing how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality
- LO2: Demonstrate an understanding of sociological theories
- LO3: Demonstrate an understanding of methodological approaches within sociology
- LO4: Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity in society
Course Requirements:
Grades for the course will be computed based on the following:

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Assignments</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
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Attendance & Participation – Class attendance and participation are essential to your success in the course; and thus, highly are highly encouraged. Attendance and participation will count for 200pts towards your overall grade.

- Regular **attendance** will help your academic standing. Approximately 50% of the exam questions will be directly from in-class materials. Furthermore, excellent attendance and participation can result in up to 40 extra credit points towards your overall grade.
- Active **participation** in class includes being prepared, attentive, and participating in class discussions. Throughout the semester, there will be 12 unannounced attendance/participation checks over the course of the semester. The “checks” include a wide range of activities (reading quizzes, brain-storming activities, simulations, discussion questions, in class assignments, etc.). THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR MISSED ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION CHECKS, NOT FOR ANY REASON (*with the exception of the first attendance check). You must be present on the day AND time of the attendance check to receive credit. Each “check” is worth a maximum of 20pts towards your overall grade; as a result, you are allowed to miss one attendance/participation checks without penalty. Students who complete all 12 attendance/participation can earn up to 40 extra credit points (i.e., 240pts for attendance/participation).
- If you know in advance that you will miss a class, please talk to me beforehand.
- Please note that in the event that you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you “missed,” with regard to materials and notes, from one of your classmates; I will not provide you with lecture notes or annotated PowerPoint slides. I will, however, meet with you during office hours to discuss whatever questions you may have after reviewing the notes.

Applications Assignments – There will be three application assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment contributes to 10% of your overall grade. These assignments range between 1-4pgs in length. Additionally, they will require you to apply course concepts and theories to contemporary social dynamics. **All application assignments are due via DROPBOX by 12:30pm on the designated due date.**

Assignment Due Dates:
Assignment 1 – 9/14/16
Assignment 2 – 10/26/16
Assignment 3 – 11/16/16

Exams – There will be 2 online exams, a mid-term and a final, over the course of the semester. The exams will be administered via CourseDen during our class meeting time (midterm) or the scheduled final exam time (final exam). The structure of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL CLASS MEETING ON EXAM DAYS. You will,
however, need to make arrangements to take the exams in a location with a secure/stable internet connection. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. The exams require students to summarize and analyze course readings and other materials presented in class. They are part cumulative; this applies especially to the theory section of the course. **There will be no makeup exams unless there is a valid excuse for having missed the exam.** Personal illness and family emergencies are valid excuses but must have proper documentation. I will utilize my own judgment in determining what a valid excuse is but typically, oversleeping, traveling out of town, interviews, car trouble, and work-related absences are not valid excuses. If you know that you have a conflict with a scheduled date on the syllabus, please see me so that we can make other arrangements prior to the exam date. **Please make arrangements to meet with me ASAP if you are not proficient in typing.**

**Exam Dates:**
Midterm – 10/3/16, 12:30-1:45pm
Final Exam – 12/7/16, 11-1pm

Grading Scale (grades will be rounded up for fractions of 0.5 and above)

A = 895-1000pts  
B = 795-894pts  
C = 695-794pts  
D = 595-694pts  
F = 594pts

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Communication** – I check my email (celestel@westga.edu) daily, between 7am -9am. Make sure you use my westga.edu address, not CourseDen, to ensure a prompt response. Please allow 48hrs for a response; keep in mind that the responses may take a little longer over the weekend and during breaks (i.e., winter break, spring break, Easter, etc.) Additionally, please turn your “notifications” on under your CourseDen settings. Throughout the semester I will use the announcements and notification features to alert you of action items related to the class.

**Late Policy** – Each day that your work is late results in the deduction of 10 points. **I will not accept assignments that are more than 3 days late.** Assignments turned into my office, placed in my box or under my door; by snail mail or emails are considered late. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to complete the assignments. Only assignments turned in to me, in class/online, on their due dates are considered on time. If you know that you have a conflict with a scheduled date on the syllabus please contact me BEFORE the assignment due date.

**Class Conduct** – Please come to class prepared!! The readings are listed in the syllabus on the day that they are due. Also, please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices BEFORE entering class. The first time that the class the is interrupted by a cell phone, the entire class will be warned; the second time, will result in the perpetrator being asked to leave class. Laptops will be allowed unless they become a distraction to me and/or your fellow classmates. Please **do not** bring food to class. Please refrain from engaging in tangential conversations, note passing, entering late, and leaving early. Please try to be on time. In the event that you are late, try not to disrupt the class upon entry. If you know that you must leave class early make sure you inform me in advance, sit near the door, and leave as quietly as possible. Additionally, please **do not gather your belongings/pack up prior to the end of class** – I will
**Dismiss the class when it is over.** Finally, the subject matter of this course may be sensitive and is often difficult for students to discuss. Our goal is to create a healthy class environment where individuals can learn and feel free to express their views. There will be numerous opportunities to engage in class discussions and debate throughout the semester; **it is imperative that students remain respectful of one another and the instructor at all times.** I welcome and encourage input from a wide range of viewpoints. However, I will not tolerate disruptive behavior or discourteous manners and speech.

**Procedure for disputing a grade** - If you disagree with a grade you’ve received, you may submit a written request for a review of the quiz question or assignment. Written requests must include your argument for why you think you should have received a different grade. These requests must be made within 3-days of receiving the grade. I reserve the right to agree or disagree with your dispute.

**Disabilities** - If you have a condition that requires special accommodations, please inform me as soon as possible in addition to informing the UWG Accessibility Services. In order to receive special accommodations, you will need to provide a copy of your Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. I cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php](http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php).

**Academic Dishonesty** Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. I take academic dishonesty very seriously. Academic dishonesty can result in probation or expulsion, even if the act was not intentionally dishonest. If you are unclear about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, please consult me. For additional information please consult [UWG Email Policy](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Email_Policy.pdf).

**Sexual Harassment Policy** The University of West Georgia is committed to providing a positive discrimination-free environment. Hence, it is the policy of the University of the University of West Georgia, in accord with federal and state law, Board of Regents’ policy, and Title IX, that sexual harassment in the workplace or the educational environment is unacceptable conduct. Sexual harassment is subject to discipline, up to and including separation from the institution.

For additional information on these and other University policies, go to: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

**Preparing for class:**
For each hour spent in class, you will probably need to set aside at least two hours and a half for work outside of the class session such as reading, reviewing your notes, and completing your assignments.
I will provide you with a reading schedule that details reading assignments for each class period. It is your responsibility to prepare for class each day. I recommend doing the reading for the each day before our class meeting, and then reviewing them again briefly afterwards. Your readings are an important resource to succeeding in this course. You will need to be familiar with the terms and concepts we discuss, and periodically reviewing your readings AND class notes are the best way to stay familiar with important ideas. In addition, you will find our discussions much more meaningful if you spend some time before class to make some notes listing what you think are the main points of the author’s argument, as well as any questions you have about the reading.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
*Getting Real About Race: Hoodies, Mascots, Model Minorities, and Other Conversations*, Edited by Stephanie M. McClure and Cherise A. Harris. Los Angeles: Sage (Referred to as GRAR on reading schedules)

Additional required readings are available electronically via CourseDen (noted as CD in the reading schedule)

>>I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE ALL ASPECTS OF THE SYLLABUS. PLEASE STAY TUNED.<<

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING / ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/10/16</td>
<td>Class Introductions</td>
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<td>PART I: SOCIOLOGICAL DEFINITIONS &amp; THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE</td>
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• GRAR – Essay #1 “But My Mother says...”  
• Higginbotham and Anderson “Race: Why it Matters”  
• Attendance Check #1 Due |