

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY SOC 266 – RACE AND ETHNICITY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Considers race and ethnicity as social constructs that deeply affect our personal experience and our social institutions. Examines the relationships of racial and ethnic groups with each other and with the larger society, and the ways in which these relationships are constantly changing. Explores the experience of different groups and examines ideas of racial justice and equality. Introduces significant theoretical approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. Lecture 3 hours, Total 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide an introduction to ideas that have shaped and influenced racial and ethnic interactions in the past and present. Historical meaning and sentiments attached to race and ethnicity are explored in the form of concepts, ideas, images, and theories. These concepts will be analyzed in the contexts of social, political, economic, religious, and educational institutions as they shape individuals and designated racial and ethnic groups.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Ability to read in English at the college level.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Define and accurately use in context the key terms and social concepts used in the sociological study of race and ethnicity.
- b) Assess the impact of minority group status on the process of assimilation and acculturation among selected racial and ethnic groups.
- c) Contrast the experiences of selected racial and ethnic groups in the United States.
- d) Explain the difference between the “race” and “ethnicity.”
- e) Describe the concept of pluralism in the United States.
- f) Identify the history, stages, and process of de jure and de facto segregation and integration in the U.S.
- g) Cite historical legal rulings and court cases which helped to create minority group statuses in the U.S.
- h) Distinguish between the macro theoretical approaches and interactionist approaches to race and ethnicity.
- i) Summarize contributions of classic and contemporary race scholars on theory and social movements.
- j) Analyze the institutions through which racial boundaries and hierarchies are produced and reproduced.
- k) Apply findings of race and ethnic research to one’s own life.

Major Topics to be Included

- a) The social and political construction of race as a phenomenon
- b) Social and historical construction of racial boundaries
- c) Social psychological and interactionist approaches to race
- d) Macro approaches to race including internal colonialism
- e) Contemporary cultural divisions of labor and employment
- f) Institutions as sites of inequality (housing, education, healthcare)
- g) Crime and racial inequalities in punishment
- h) Civil Rights and Social Movements that reconstructed race relations
- i) Affirmative Action in employment and education
- j) Racial and ethnic stereotypes such as the Asian ‘model minority’
- k) Interracial dating, marriage, and cross-cultural families

Extra Topics (Optional)

- Political participation among minority groups
- Militant and Extreme racial groups
- Identity politics
- Immigration and undocumented groups in America

