

Race Relations 306:02

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:40-3:00
Lucy Stone Hall B269

Instructor: Jeff Wilhelms

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 – 12:00 in Davison 112. Please make an appointment.

Course Description:

This is the study of explicit and implicit racism in American society, with a focus on politics, economics, housing, education, and the criminal justice system.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each scheduled class. An excused absence is for a valid reason and obviously there are no point deductions if you are absent for a valid reason. Please send me an email if you expect to be absent for a valid reason. Each student gets two free unexcused absences, after which points will be deducted from your final grade, as follows: the 3rd unexcused absence results in a 2% deduction from your final grade, the 4th unexcused absence another 2% deduction, and so on. Absences, even for valid reasons, will make it more difficult for you to do well in the class.

Class Participation:

Class participation can add points to your final grade.

Classroom Conduct:

Please observe the following basic rules of courtesy and consideration during class:

1) please be on time for class; 2) turn off your cell phone and do not have it on your desk, in your lap, or otherwise visible during class; 3) do not have materials unrelated to the course open and/or on your desk during class, i.e., books for other courses, newspapers, crossword puzzles; 4) do not have your head down on the desk or be sleeping during class; 5) no computers in class, except for special circumstances. Failure to observe these basic rules of courtesy and consideration will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

Students Requesting Special Accommodations:

Students requesting special accommodations will please follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Academic Integrity:

For questions about academic integrity, please go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> and <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources>. A 20 minute interactive tutorial on plagiarism and academic integrity is at <http://www.soc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html>

Diversity Statement:

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

Textbook:

Desmond and Emirbayer's Race in America (ISBN 978-0-393-93765-7) can be purchased new or used at the Rutgers University Barnes and Noble. You may also want to check out Amazon, where you can rent or buy the paperback or digital version .

Sakai:

Additional readings, powerpoints for each topic, sample test questions for each topic, grades, and announcements are all posted on sakai.

Tests (250 points):

There are three tests in the course. The first and second tests are each 100 points and the final test is 150 points. Format of the first two tests: 35 multiple-choice questions (2 points each) and 1 essay question (30 points). The low grade on the first two tests will be dropped and not included in the calculation of your final grade in the course. The final exam covers the entire course and is 75 multiple-choice questions (2 points each) and no essay question. Part I of the final exam is 35 questions on topics 5, 6 and 7. Part II is 40 questions drawn from the other topics we have discussed in the course.

Writing Assignments (250 points):

The Reflection (100 points): Reflect on your race and/or ethnicity. Do you see yourself as advantaged or disadvantaged by your race and/or ethnicity? In what ways? Who does the world around you say you are? Who do your parents say you are? What message is reflected back to you in the faces and voices of your teachers, your neighbors, store clerks? What do you learn from the media about yourself? How are you represented in the cultural media? Are you missing from the picture altogether?

The paper must be at least six complete pages. Bibliographic references do not have a place in this personal reflection. Due date is October 17th. Hardcopies only, please do not email assignments to me. There is a 10-point deduction for each class an assignment is late.

Do not type your name on the first page of this paper. Type your name on the last page. (I grade the paper without seeing who wrote it.)

The Debate (150 points): Choose one of the following issues and defend each side of the argument (at least four pages for the 'yes' side and four pages for the 'no' side). Draw on any sources, i.e., sociology, history, law, psychology, philosophy, to support your positions.

- Is immigration good for the U.S. economy?
- Should Congress pass the DREAM Act?
- Is racial profiling by police a serious problem in the United States?
- Is racial diversity in the classroom essential to a good education?

Using "Should Congress pass the DREAM Act?" as an example, here is the format:

Type on the top of page 1:	Yes, Congress should pass the DREAM Act
Pages 1-4:	Make the argument and support your position.
Type on the top of page 5:	No, Congress should not pass the DREAM Act
Pages 5-8:	Make the argument and support your position.
Page 9:	Bibliography (No web citations of any kind; use only real books, journals, or periodicals.)
Page 10:	Type your name on the last page.

The paper must be at least eight complete pages. Due date is November 28th. Hardcopies only, please do not email assignments to me. There is a 10-point deduction for each class an assignment is late.

Extra Credit

You have the opportunity to earn extra credit points by volunteering at Elijah's Promise community soup kitchen at 18 Neilsen St. in New Brunswick. To volunteer, sign up directly at elijahspromise.volunteerhub.com. Their fall schedule fills up pretty quickly, so do not hesitate to sign up if you want to volunteer during the fall semester.

You must work at least three shifts to get any extra credit points. Upon finishing the 3rd shift and submitting the required verification of service, you get 15 extra credit points. Every additional shift you work gets you another 5 points, up to a maximum of 7 shifts and 35 extra credit points. Refer to the "Final Grades" grid below to see the importance of extra credit points.

- The following shifts are available Monday - Friday:
 - First prep/dining room, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (5 people needed)
 - Soup kitchen: first dish room team, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (2 people needed)
 - Busing tables in the dining room, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (5 people needed)
 - Soup kitchen: second prep team, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (5 people needed)
 - Soup kitchen: third prep team, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (5 people needed)
 - Soup kitchen: second dish room team, 5:00 p.m. – 8 p.m. (5 people needed)
 - Dining room and after meal clean up team, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (5 people needed)
- Consult the Elijah's Promise website for Saturday and Sunday schedules.
- "Fresh is Best" on the 3rd Friday and Saturday of every month, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Unload trucks and package produce (15-18 people needed)

Final Grades:

500-450 A 449-425 B+ 424-400 B 399-375 C+ 374-350 C 349-300 D 299- F

Class Schedule:

Sept. 5, 7, 12, 14,
19, 21, 26, 28

Topic 1: Basic Ideas

Chapter 1 in Desmond and Emirbayer

"Systemic Racism," by Joe Feagin

"Privilege, Oppression, and Difference," by Allan Johnson

"The Roots of Implicit Bias," by Daniel Yudkin and Jay Van Bevel

Oct. 3

Test on topic 1

35 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. each) and 1 essay question (30 pts.)

Oct. 5, 10, 12, 17	Topic 2: The Invention of Race Chapter 2 in Desmond and Emirbayer “White Natives,” by Eugenia Shanklin “Hitler’s American Model,” by James Whitman
Oct. 17	The Reflection writing assignment is due today (100 pts.)
Oct. 19, 24, 26	Topic 3: Politics Chapter 3 in Desmond and Emirbayer “Democracy on Trial: The Persistence of Race-Based Vote Denial in American History,” by Charles Zelden
Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 7	Topic 4: Crime and Punishment Chapter 6 in Desmond and Emirbayer “Capital Punishment: Choosing Life or Death (Implicitly),” by Robert J. Smith and G. Ben Cohen
Nov. 9	Test on topics 2, 3 and 4 35 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. each) and 1 essay question (30 pts.)
Nov. 14, 16, 21	Topic 5: Economics Chapter 4 in Desmond and Emirbayer “Taxing the Poor,” by Katherine Newman and Rourke O’Brien
Nov. 28	The Debate writing assignment is due today (150 pts.)
Nov. 28, 30	Topic 6: Residential Segregation Chapter 5 in Desmond and Emirbayer “The Color of Law,” by Richard Rothstein
Dec. 5, 7, 12	Topic 7: Education Chapter 7 in Desmond and Emirbayer “The Next Kind of Integration,” by Emily Bazelon
Dec. 14	Review session for the final exam, 1:40 to 3:00, in LSH B269
Monday, Dec. 18 12-3:00 p.m. in LSH B269	The final exam covers the entire course and is 75 multiple-choice questions (2 points each). Part I of the final is 35 questions on topics 5, 6 and 7. Part II is 40 questions drawn from the other topics we have discussed in the course.