

**RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER**  
Sociology U 520  
Fall 2006

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**Required Books:**

Race, Class, and Gender, **6th ed.** (R,C,G)

Margaret L. Anderson and  
Patricia Hill Collins

Honky

Dalton Conley

Nickel and Dimed

Barbara Ehrenreich

Inequality and Stratification, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

Robert Rothman

Who's Gonna Take the Weight?

Kevin Powell

**Course Description:**

This course considers the intersection of race, class and gender in social structure, institutions, and people's experience. We will utilize an interdisciplinary approach to focus on the socially constructed nature of these concepts and how they shape life chances and create meaning in individual lives. 'Difference' with an emphasis on inequality, particularly of power, is a central concept for understanding our society and is a critical concept for our work. We begin by considering concepts and personal accounts, examine race and racism, class and inequality, and gender and sexism. We then consider institutions such as work, families, media and state policies and apply the framework to ethnicity, sexuality, violence and social activism.

**Course Requirements:**

This is an advanced course. It requires attendance and participation, which means keeping up with the reading, being prepared for each class, and contributing to the discussion. Everyone is expected to participate and contribute and will be assigned specific reading to present in class. Completing the reading at the appropriate time and contributing to class discussion is important for everyone in the class and enables you to do well on exams, in presenting material, and writing papers. Participation will influence your grade. Attendance will be taken regularly and can also influence your grade.

**Written assignments: There will be an exam on October 5, and three 5-6 page papers. The papers are due on November 9, November 20, and December 6.** (December 6 is the last day of classes.) All the papers are based on required reading.

The first paper will be based on reading since the exam.

November 9, paper topics: Class and Inequality and Gender, Sexism, and Heterosexism

November 20, paper topics: Work and Economic Transformation and Violence: State Institutions and Personal Violence

December 6 paper topics: Health and Social Welfare and Social Change

You will choose your own paper subject. I will provide some ideas. The idea is to use

the assigned reading to write the paper on a subject of interest to you. Of course, you may use additional sources. You may also refer to earlier reading. Use the reading to explore an issue or subject you find interesting. For example: compare and contrast authors and approaches; evaluate whether and how authors shed light on a problem or issue; explore gender, race and class as central explanatory factors in a situation or analysis. The papers must engage with the appropriate assigned reading, citing relevant books or essays.

- Several **two page response papers** about required reading or a relevant subject will be assigned from time to time.

**All papers and take-home exams must have numbered pages, be double spaced, and stapled. Do not use electronic mail to hand in papers. You must hand in a hard copy.**

**Oral assignments:** You must lead a class discussion based on class reading. During the second or third class we will organize a schedule that ensures that a rotating set of participants comes to each class session with summaries of the readings, questions, and issues that you present to the class for discussion. You are expected to take a leadership role in discussions on your assigned day-- although everyone is expected to have completed and thought about the readings.

**Grade:**

Exam = 30% of your grade

Each paper = 15%

Response papers = 10%

Discussion leadership and participation = 15%

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Introduction to Race, Class and Gender Concepts**                      September 6 and 7

R,C,G: Introduction, 1-16

R,C,G: Systems of Power and Inequality, 61-90

**Why Race, Class, and Gender Still Matter**                                      Week of September 11

R,C,G: Madrid; Moraga; Frye; Trask; Lorde, 17-59

Inequality and Stratification, Rothman, Chapter 1 and Chapter 6

Films:

‘Race: The Power of an Illusion’

‘The Difference Between Us’

‘The House We Live In’

**Race and Racism**

Weeks of September 18 and 25

Conley, Honky, entire  
R,C,G: Bonilla-Silva; McIntosh; Williams; Martinez; Ferber; 91-115  
+ #42 Moore and #43 Churchill

Films: 'Ethnic Notions'  
'The Murder of Emmett Till'  
'Skin Deep'

**Ethnicity and Nationality** Week of October 2

R,C,G: Rubin; Waters; Levitt; Smith; Kibria; 190-227  
+ #41 Sayeed

Film: 'La Ciudad'

**EXAM ONE, OCTOBER 5**

**Class and Inequality** Weeks of October 9 and 16

Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed, entire  
R,C,G: Sklar; Langston; Shapiro; Pattillo-McCoy; de Parle; 116-146  
+ #40 Lareau and # 44 Mantsios

Rothman, Inequality and Stratification, Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 11

Films: 'The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the  
Farmworkers'  
'People Like Us: Social Class in America'

**Gender, Sexism, and Heterosexism** Weeks of October 23, 30 and  
November 6

R,C,G: Zinn, Sotelo, and Messner; Le Espiritu; Alvarez; Messner; Gerschick; 147-190  
+ #45 Cofer and #46 Malveaux

R,C,G: Kilbourne; Kempadoo; West; Katz ;228-265 (excluding #28)  
+ #39 Weston

Films: 'The Double Shift'  
'Labor Women' or "Still Killing Us Softly"

**PAPER DUE, November 9**

**Work and Economic Transformation** Week of November 13

R,C,G: Anderson and Collins, 267-282  
Ammott and Matthaei; Brown; Moss and Tilly; Newman; Hondagneu-Sotelo; 283-320

Film: 'Roger and Me'  
'Eyes on the Fries'

**Violence: State Institutions and Personal** Week of November 20

Powell, Who's Gonna Take the Weight?, entire  
R,C,G: Snipp; Silliman; Halbfinger and Holmes; Wriggins; Taylor; 442-479

Film: 'The Laramie Project'

**PAPER DUE, November 20**

**Health and Social Welfare** Week of November 27  
Mickelson and Smith; Burnham; Collins; Block, Balcazar, Keyes; Ross et. al. 404-441

Film: 'Taken for a Ride'

**Social Change and Sites of Change** Week of December 4

R,C,G: Anderson and Collins, 481-492  
Fellner; Krauss; Kelley; Asetoyer; Manifesta; Kivel

Film: 'Showdown in Seattle: Five Days that Shook the World'

**PAPER DUE, December 6**, last day of class