

# *Moravian College*

## **SOC 255 – Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Relations**

**Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Assistant Professor in Sociology**

**PPHAC 317**

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**Office Hours: M 4-6; W 1-2/3:30-4:30 or By Appointment**

### **Required Text:**

- Frederickson, George M. Racism: A Short History. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2002.
- Steinberg, Stephen. The Ethnic Myth. Boston: Beacon Press, 1989.
- Rosen, Ruth. The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America. New York, Penguin Books, 2000.
- Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester.

### **Recommended Text:**

- Roiphe, Katie. Last Night in Paradise: Sex and Morals at the Century's End. NY: Vintage, 1997. (out of print)
- Anderson, Eric. Trailblazing: The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach. Irvine, CA: Identity Press, 2003.

**Please Note:** I cannot be held responsible for your purchase of a different edition than otherwise noted above. Please be aware that different editions have different page sequences and may offer either expanded coverage or wholesale subtractions from the edition assigned.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To sociologically investigate various elements of racial-, ethnic-, and gender-based inequality
- To define inequality in both its modern as well as historical context
- To provide discussion of specific types of inequality using a variety of sociological and otherwise social scientific perspectives
- To think and write about inequality using a sociological imagination

### **Course Requirements:**

Students will be required to take a midterm exam, write a 6-8 page term-type paper, complete an annotated bibliography, take a final exam, which will be cumulative, and perform other tasks, including writing article reviews, unannounced quizzes, etc., as befitting this type of course. The midterm will be spaced at approximately half of the way through the course—fair warning will precede it. The final exam **must** be taken at

the assigned period as outlined in the college schedule.

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Misc. Work, Reviews, Quizzes, Participation etc.	20%
Midterm Exam Grade	20%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Paper [Due Date <i>TBD</i> ]	20%
Final Exam Grade	20%

The grade scale is as follows:

- A+ =100/A=96/ A-=92
- B+ =89/ B=86/B-=82
- C+=79/C=76/C-=72
- D+=69/D=66/D-=62
- F=from 59-50 (you will be notified as to which; dependent upon several factors including effort, deadlines, etc.)

### **Classroom Decorum and Expectations:**

**Attendance** – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but may also be met with a lowered mark for participation.

**\*\*Remember – there are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at the earliest possible opportunity convenience.**

- **Tardiness** – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one's fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter the classroom.
- **Deadlines** – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:
  - On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury.
  - On major assignments, there will be no grace period. Failure to contact the instructor prior to a deadline (or missed exam) will result in a zero.
  - Submitting work via email is something you must arrange in advance. Do not

assume that it will keep you from missing a deadline.

- **Participation** – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process and will be factored into your final grade. In the best tradition of many West African communities, your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to contribute regularly is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively (see above for participation value).
- **Disruptions** – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not, and should not, be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual’s ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.
- **Academic Honesty** – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty as established here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found in its entirety on pages 52 through 57 on your student handbook.

**Please note:** It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same.

**On Writing and Note-Taking** – In the finest tradition of the liberal arts education, this instructor is particularly given to writing assignments and will spend a great deal of time evaluating them over the course of a semester. Please try to check your ego and spend as much time pouring over my commentary as you do in the actual writing process.

Also, be advised that note-taking is a skill that requires honing and shaping. As this is an introductory level course, I recommend that you use this experience as a means to help you foment a reasonable and workable level of expertise, one that will be quite helpful as you continue along your academic path.

**Film Night** – TBA

### **Submission Expectations:**<sup>1</sup>

All finished writing product must include:

- a title page with a suitable title, your name, the course, section, and my name all spelled correctly (*for major works*)
- 12 font (in black) with default margins and spacing set at 1½ to 2
- page numbers at the bottom center of each page
- a *References* section (if necessary) at the end of the work done in the most recent MLA form (for every unedited internet cite you must have at least two published

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<sup>1</sup> In class work is to be submitted in blue or black ink.

- sources)<sup>2</sup>
- with few exceptions, single & two-digit numbers (zero *through* ninety-nine) are to be spelled out; three digits are to be written numerically
  - be wary of over use of abbreviations and/or contractions
  - a staple in the upper left hand corner (no frilly covers)

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<sup>2</sup> Please note, I **will not** grade a paper without proper citations. It will simply be handed back to you without a grade, and I reserve the right to submit it to the proper committees on academic honesty

*All is race.  
There is no other truth.*

-Benjamin Disraeli, British Writer and MP<sup>3</sup>

## **Course Outline (STC):**

### **Unit I: Race and Ethnicity**

Topics to Be Covered: (Readings: Frederickson, Steinberg, Handouts)

- Social and Philosophical Foundations of Inequality – Theory and Practice
- Race as Science
- Looking at Difference Sociologically
- Popular Culture and Difference, i.e. Entertainment, Sport, Film, etc.
- A Material Civil War Analysis
- *Jim Crow: North and South*
- Institutionalizing Difference
- Cold War and Identity

### **Midterm**

### **Unit II: Gender and Sexuality**

Topics to Be Covered: (Readings: Anderson, Various Handouts)

- Sex and Gender - Theory and Practice
- Feminism: Early and Modern
- The Origin of the Patriarchy
- The Sexual Revolution
- Feminization & Sexism
- Sexuality & Homosexuality
- Title IX
- The Glass Ceiling
- Contemporary Themes in Feminism and anti-Racism

**Final Exam (check college schedule)**

**\*\*Check Black Board (Bb) Site Daily\*\***

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<sup>3</sup> In Malik, Kenan. *The Meaning of Race: Race, History and Culture in Western Society*. London: MacMillan Press, Ltd., 1996: 1.