NATIONALITY AND RACE RELATIONS

ONLINE SECTIONS 700, 800, & 900

Instructor: Ms. Lesa A. Johnson, M.A.
Online Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm, and Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 pm.
Other hours by appointment through MYPLAN on Blackboard.
Email: lesaannette@gmail.com (I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours.)

Required Text:
Healey, Joseph F. 2012. Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class: The Sociology of Group Conflict

Additional course readings will be available on blackboard or in the UNL Library’s electronic reserves in PDF format.

Course Description

Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Designation: The University of Nebraska—Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all of its students. To that end, it has designated certain classes as ACE certified. These classes provide and assess specific learning outcomes. As an ACE class, Sociology 217: Nationality and Race Relations will facilitate Learning Outcome #6 (using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior) and Learning Outcome #9 (exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue).

This course introduces students to sociological theories, concepts, principles, processes, and experiences of racial and ethnic relations in the United States. The course will examine the socio-historical experiences of each of the major racial and ethnic minority groups in order to better understand their contemporary social, cultural, and economic status, and the relations between dominant and subordinate groups in the United States. Various contemporary topics and issues will be covered, including: diversity, assimilation, ethnic identity, prejudice, discrimination, racism, racial attitudes, immigration, inequality, and poverty.

Objectives
- Provide opportunities to increase your knowledge of nationality and race relations as well as sociological perspectives on the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and class.
- Focus on specific racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States and understand present relationships by assessing past patterns of minority group and dominant group relations.
- Examine the relevance and importance of racial and ethnic diversity to Nebraska, the United States and around the world.
ACE learning outcomes in this class will be assessed by:

- five quizzes,
- five reflection papers, and
- contributions by individual students on the discussion board related to various questions

**My Role**

Distance classes can be overwhelming for an instructor who tries to interact constantly with each student's postings. I will log in and read what you all post shortly after the posting. I will not, however, respond to each of your postings. Frequently I will find comments or observations that you make of such interest that I will send an email to all of you commenting about these.

Also, as race and nationality are particularly sensitive topics for some, I reserve the right to monitor posts for inappropriate language or insensitive comments. Please be warned that I take this role very seriously, and *grading sanctions will be rewarded* for any disrespectful or otherwise insensitive treatment of ANY racial or ethnic group, or of any human being for any reason. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for understanding and complying with harassment policies.

For more information, visit [http://www.unl.edu/equity/NonDiscrimination.htm](http://www.unl.edu/equity/NonDiscrimination.htm).

➢ Let’s all work to foster an atmosphere of intellectual enhancement and mutual respect.

**Things to do in the first week of classes:**

You are REQUIRED to EMAIL me through blackboard by 10:00 a.m. on Friday of the first week (August 29th) and make sure your email is properly set up. If you do not receive my emails this will affect your ability to succeed in the class. This class relies heavily on communication through email.

In your email to me I ask that you indicate that you have gone to blackboard, explored the site contents, understand how to use the course materials, and ask me any questions you may have at that time.

**ONLINE COURSE TIPS:**

1. When sending me emails please put UNL217x in the subject line.

2. Always sign your name and consider how you write an email. Reread and edit your email for clarity, completeness and tact before sending. While I am not one of them, some of your professors will not respond to emails that are poorly written or not signed. This is a good chance for you to work on non-verbal communication.

3. Check blackboard at the beginning of each week. I generally send out weekly reminders for due dates, but you also have a posted course schedule on blackboard that contains all this information. The ultimate responsibility for meeting deadlines is **yours**.
4. **Do not to fall behind.** Remember, this is different than having a teacher remind you in person that you have something due. Time management is CRUCIAL for your overall success. This experience should help you to develop good study habits and become independent in managing your course work.

5. Email me ASAP if you find an error in the grade book. I do not make changes to grades after they have been posted for two weeks.

6. **Deadlines are deadlines!** I only accept work that is submitted over Blackboard by the due date. Once the deadline is passed, the online portal will close and you will no longer be allowed to submit an assignment. The online environment allows you the opportunity to submit work any time prior to the due date, but not afterwards. Please do NOT email me your assignments. Only Blackboard submissions will be accepted. I do not make any exceptions for late work, so please do not ask.

**Course Policies**

**Course Participation in an Online Environment:**
Since this is an online class, participation is graded heavily rather than attendance. Participation is demonstrated submissions to the discussion board, evidence that you are reviewing posted material, response to emails from me, and actively engaging in the class by asking questions, etc. This is crucial to your success in this course. Active participation will be noted and considered in determining final grades.

**Students with Disabilities:**
UNL encourages all students to participate fully in the academic opportunities, cultural enrichment, and the wide array of social activities offered. A student desiring reasonable accommodations for his/her documented disability should visit [http://www.unl.edu/ssd](http://www.unl.edu/ssd) for more information. Please notify me as soon as possible of any accommodations you may need for the course, and we will work out a schedule as soon as possible.

**Student Athletes or Other Student Activities:**
I strongly support your involvement in sports, student government, or any other school sponsored activity. I will need a list of dates you will be missing from the athletic department (or whomever you receive them from) as soon as possible. I tend to have lots of students gone at once for events, and I would hate to schedule a major activity or test that day. Please give me that schedule as soon as possible. All activities missed will be due in advance.

**Technology Issues:**
If you are experiencing a problem with Blackboard (e.g., accessing materials, uploading information), please notify the [Computer Help Center](mailto:Computer%20Help%20Center) as soon as possible. Don’t wait until something is due to report a problem; no one can help you at that point.

**Computer Help Center**
Phone: (402) 472-3970 or toll-free (866) 472-3970
E-mail: [mysupport@unl.edu](mailto:mysupport@unl.edu)
Once you have notified the UNL Help Desk, they will give you a service ticket number. Copy that number in an email to me along with the assignment you are having trouble uploading; but do this before the assignment is due so that it is not late.

**Academic Integrity:**
When you place your name on an assignment or exam, I interpret this to mean that you have received no unauthorized assistance on an assignment or test. Unauthorized assistance includes but is not limited to: cheating on an exam, turning in assignments/exams as your own work when they are not, and plagiarism (presenting someone else’s published ideas as your own). These acts will not be tolerated and will be handled according to university policy. For more information, visit [http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/integrity](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/integrity). For writing assignments, I will have you upload them through Safe Assign on Blackboard to help reduce this risk.

**Course Format:**

This class consists of **six course modules**. Each module consists of a set of readings (either posted on blackboard or chapters from your text), a set of PowerPoint slides, a discussion board post, a reflection paper, and a quiz. Each of these components will be discussed in further detail below.

- **MODULE 1**: Readings for module 1 include the syllabus and the 4 readings posted under the "Module 1 Readings" tab to the left.
- **MODULE 2**: Readings for module 2 include chapter 1, 2, and 3 from your textbook.
- **MODULE 3**: Readings for module 3 include chapters 4 and 5 from your textbook.
- **MODULE 4**: Readings for module 4 include chapters 6, 7 from your textbook.
- **MODULE 5**: Readings for module 5 include chapters 8 and 9 from your textbook.
- **MODULE 6**: Readings for module 6 include chapters 10 and 11 from your textbook.

**Course Requirements: (Total: 600 points)**

**Discussion Board Posts: (120 Points, 20 points per module):**

- After completing each module, you will be required to take part in a discussion board. Students will be divided into small groups to make discussion more manageable. Click on the “Group Discussion Board” tab on the left to see your group members. This is also where you can access the discussion board for your group.

- At the start of each module, a discussion question will be posted on the group discussion board. You will then have one week to post a response to that question. Responses should be well thought-out, well written, and about two paragraphs in length. In addition to posting a response to the initial discussion question, students are also required to post a minimum of two feedback/follow-up responses to posts made by others in your group.
• The grading rubric for discussion board posts is available under <Start Here>/ <Course Orientation> / <Tips for Meaningful Discussion Board Posts>

• As per the Course Schedule, Discussion Board Posts are due by 8:00 am Monday. Discussion Board Responses are due by 8:00 am the following Friday.

Quizzes (240 Points, 60 points each)

• There will be a quiz at the end of each course module. All quizzes will be administered in a window between Monday and Thursday. Quizzes are proctored; see the “Quizzes” page for procedures on how to take your proctored quizzes. You are allowed only one attempt per quiz. You have 60 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes will consist of 20 multiple choice questions covering all materials presented in that module.

• Click on the 'Quizzes' tab on the left to access your quizzes.

Reflection Papers (240 Points, 40 points each)

• For each of the six modules, you will be required to write a reflection paper of 2-3 pages. The topic for each reflection paper is posted under the 'Reflection Papers' tab. Each paper will be graded on both content (the depth and breadth of the course information you apply in your analysis) and on form (the clarity of the work you present in terms of grammar, spelling, and punctuation). You must connect the readings, relevant concepts, and issues within the assignments.

• Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, with 12-point font and 1” margins and uploaded directly onto Blackboard as an MS Word document. DO NOT SIMPLY TYPE YOUR PAPER INTO THE TEXT BOX BECAUSE I WILL NOT GRADE IT!

• As per the Course Schedule, Reflection Papers are due by 8:00 am Friday.

Important Notes:
I do not curve assignments, but if you are on the border and have submitted all assignments I will bump you up. I also do not grade on the basis of need, but based on what you earned. Do not ask me to change your final grade unless I have made a mathematical error, which occasionally happens. I will only change the grade on an assignment within 2 weeks after the assignment has been posted. In other words, I do not go back into the gradebook. Please do not write at the end of the semester about an assignment that was due in the beginning.

Make-up quizzes are rarely given and are in essay format only. Documented problems should be discussed with me PRIOR to the quiz, or, in the extremely rare case of an emergency, which prevents contacting the instructor prior to the quiz, as soon as possible. Quizzes can be made up in advance if you contact me within a reasonable time.

All work (Reflection Papers, Discussion Board Posts and Discussion Board Responses) are due via Blackboard by 8:00 am on the designated Monday or Friday. Anything after 8:00 am is late, even if it is 8:05. Late papers/work will not be graded, which results in a zero.