

Course Outline for: SOC 2110 American Minority Relations**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Goal #7 Human Diversity

This course examines intergroup relations in the U.S. focusing on majority-minority interactions, with the following emphases: race and ethnicity, prejudice and discrimination, inequality, assimilation and pluralism. Discussion topics may include global comparisons and/or analyses of status disadvantages pertaining to women, LGBTQIA+ and elderly people, as well as economically marginalized and disabled individuals.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: January 2023**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. The social construction of race, ethnicity, and minority groups.
2. The nature and patterns of ethnic relations.
3. Theoretical explanations of prejudice, discrimination, and inequality.
4. Historical and contemporary situations of ethnic relations in the US.
5. Other minority groups and relevant policy.
6. International comparisons of ethnic groups.

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the process of the social construction of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual orientations. (Goal 2a, 2b, 5a, 5b, 7a, 7b)
2. Apply theoretical explanations to subordinate-dominant group dynamics. (Goal 2c, 2d, 5c, 5d)
3. Explain the nature and outcomes of assimilation, pluralism, and migration process. (Goal 2a, 2d, 5b, 7a, 7d)
4. Evaluate the history of ethnic minorities and the dominant group in relation to their economic, residential, educational and political statuses. (Goal 2c, 2d, 5b, 7a, 7d)
5. Compare ethnic relations globally with those in the U.S. (Goal 2b, 5a, 7b)
6. Discuss social policy issues and implications in regard to subordinate-dominant group relations. (Goal 2d, 5a, 5b, 5d, 7c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to: exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, essays, groups work and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information

This course meets the following 2021 Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board Learning Objectives:

- 1.1.2. Discuss barriers to clear communication, e.g. language, stress, bias, lack of common cultural understanding.
- 1.2.7. Identify some of the causes and ramifications of public distrust of law enforcement and strategies to enhance the public trust.
- 1.6.2. Discuss how bias, prejudice, stereotyping, intolerance, insensitivity, partiality, and marginalizing can affect just application of the law and influence officer and community safety.
- 1.6.6. Discuss how family dynamics and communication methods, both verbal and non-verbal, vary between cultures and how recognition of these variances can benefit officers and communities.
- 1.6.9. Discuss the diverse groups that make-up Minnesota's communities and some of the traits unique to communities that could impact law enforcement response.
- 2.12.1. Explain the concept of racially based profiling (Minn. Stat. 626.8471) and other profiling that is based on false assumptions about groups of people and discuss:
 - the impact of the *Whren v. United States* decision,
 - the importance of impartial policing, - the difference between the terms pretextual stop and racial profiling and the problems associated with racial profiling by law enforcement,
 - how racial profiling impacts law enforcement credibility and community trust,
 - how to handle the perception of unfair or biased treatment of members of the public by law enforcement, and
 - the importance of an officer's ability to articulate valid reasons for vehicle stops.
- 2.12.2. Define and explain the impact of hate crimes including:
 - the motivations behind hate crimes,
 - the impact of hate crimes on victims and on communities,
 - the special needs of hate crime victims, and
 - crime characteristics which may indicate a crime was motivated by the victim's race, national origin, sex, age, disability, or sexual orientation (Minn. Stat. 626.8451, Subd. 1).
- 2.18.5. Discuss culturally responsive approaches to dealing with victims of violent crimes.