

# WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

SOC 241 Minority Groups in America  
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Winter 2010-2011  
Office: Science 430  
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## Course Description

This course examines, from a sociological perspective, the experiences of all racial and ethnic groups, from colonial beginnings to the present day. Particular emphasis is placed on the recurring patterns in dominant-minority relations; differential power; ethnic diversity in U.S. society; and group variations in adaptation.

## Required Text

Vincent N. Parrillo, *Strangers to These Shores* 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2011).  
plus additional Internet assignments

**NOTE: You can buy a hard copy online or at the University Bookstore, or obtain an online 180-day subscription at such sites as [www.coursesmart.com/search](http://www.coursesmart.com/search) or [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com). You can also rent the book, but then you cannot re-sell it and get some money back. It's your choice. Just be certain to have the book in your possession **BEFORE** the winter session begins.**

(All author royalties from WPUNJ student purchases will be donated to the Student Activities Fund.)

## Course Objectives

- a. To provide the student with an insight into the patterns of human behavior between superordinate and subordinate groups.
- b. To develop student awareness of the many subcultures in U.S. society and of their place in the societal mosaic.
- c. To broaden students' perspectives and to develop critical thinking skills about the interaction patterns among diverse peoples.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a. Apply the three main sociological perspectives to any minority group's experiences;
- b. Explain the universal patterns of majority-minority relations and apply them to any minority group's experiences;
- c. Recognize the interrelationship between race/ethnicity and social class and that relevance to intergroup relations;
- d. Discuss current issues, concerns, and controversies regarding immigrants and national minorities from a sociological viewpoint that separates perception from reality;
- e. Demonstrate an understanding of the dual realities of assimilation and pluralism, and how that duality creates misunderstandings and unnecessary intergroup conflict.

## Course Requirements

1. **Attendance:** This is an intensive course, packing a full semester into three weeks. You are therefore expected to log in each and every day to get credit for "attending". Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your grade. As in a regular class, an excess of six unauthorized absences results in automatic failure.

2. **Readings:** The course outline lists the schedule of required readings. Essentially, you will read either one chapter a day, or for longer chapters, every two days. For each chapter, you will take a quiz and have the opportunity to gain class participation points by offering comments about its contents in the Discussion Board. The readings will also be the source for your final essay exam.
3. **Quizzes:** You must take the quiz on each chapter within the specified time period. If you do not, it is an automatic F grade.
4. **Class Participation:** It is important that you realize that your entries in the Discussion Board are the means for you to earn class participation points. These constitute 15 percent of your final grade (one full grade level). Each time you participate, depending on the quality and quantity of what you write, you earn points, as shown in your grade book, which is updated frequently.

BONUS: Points earned above the 15 points will count as extra credit against your quiz grades.

5. **Grading:** Grades will be based on the following formula:

Participation in Discussion Board	15 points
Quizzes (5 points each)	65 points
Final Exam	20 points

You can track your academic achievement by looking at your grade book in Blackboard.

4. **Final Exam:** You will write your final exam in essay form and submit it as a file attachment to the instructor ([parrilov@wpunj.edu](mailto:parrilov@wpunj.edu)). Spelling and grammar will count as part of the grade evaluation, as will your organization and development of thought in terms of scope, depth, and demonstrated command of the material.

## Course Content

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
December 27	Sociology of Minorities	Chapter 1
December 28	Culture and Social Structure	Chapter 2
December 29	Prejudice and Discrimination	Chapter 3
December 30	Dominant-Minority Relations	Chapter 4
Dec 31- Jan 1	European Americans I	Chapter 5
January 2-3	European Americans II	Chapter 6
January 4-5	Native Americans	Chapter 7
January 6-7	Asian Americans I	Chapter 8
January 8	Asian Americans II	Chapter 9
January 9-10	Black Americans	Chapter 10
January 11-12	Hispanic Americans	Chapter 11
January 13	Religious Minorities	Chapter 12
January 14	The American Mosaic	Chapter 15
January 15	Final Exam	Review