

Welcome Letter for Minority Groups in America

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Hello and welcome to Minority Groups in America!

Beginning with a general introduction to various theories and concepts about the sociology of minorities, this course proceeds to a comparative examination of all minority groups from colonial beginnings to the present. Not only will students learn more about their own groups, but they will also develop new insights and understandings in recognizing the sociological patterns that help us to analyze the dynamic field of intergroup relations and to discuss intelligently the issues and concerns consuming contemporary debate.

I think you will find this to be an interesting class, but an online course is much different from a traditional class. You must be constantly active and up-to-date in your assignments. Moreover, since we are compressing an entire semester into just three weeks, it is extremely labor intensive. You must spend several hours each day working on this course.

I cannot emphasize enough that, to be successful in getting a good grade when take a three-week course, you must discipline yourself to do the daily readings, complete the quizzes within the allotted time frame, and regularly post comments in the Discussion Board. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND!**

Expectations

Readings: You'll either read a chapter a day or, on some occasions, a chapter over a two-day period. **Quizzes:** For each chapter you'll take a short multiple-choice quiz. You'll have a two-day grace period beyond the due date to take the quiz, but after that, you can no longer take that particular quiz and will get an F for it.

Class Participation: This is an important component of the class, constituting 15 points of your final grade. In the Discussion Board, you will find topics for each of the chapters for you to offer your comments. A few students make the mistake of not contributing right from the beginning and then find it difficult to earn their full 15 points. Don't you be one of these people! Those 15 points are the equivalent of an A for this component; anything less than 15 points becomes that much less the grade you earn.

Final Exam: This will be an essay exam which you will receive well in advance of the due date. You will write on two essay questions and submit them as an email attachment. Spelling and grammar count.

Texts

Parrillo, Vincent N., *Strangers to These Shores*, tenth edition only (Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2011).

NOTE: You can buy a hard copy online at www.amazon.com or on campus at the University Bookstore (closed after December 23es). You can also rent it cheaper as an E-book for 180 days by going to www.coursesmart.com or www.chegg.com.

(All royalties from WPUNJ student book purchases are donated to the University.)

Get this book right away as your quizzes are based on readings and these quizzes must be taken within each week's span of time. The deadline for completion of the first quiz is December 28th.

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 will write your final exam in essay form and submit it as a file attachment to the instructor (parrillov@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.

How to Access Blackboard:

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again - you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the

Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at:
<http://www.wpunj.edu/username>

3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Blackboard documentation can be found in two places: at Bb Home, <http://bb.wpunj.edu>, before one logs in, and in the Blackboard Support tab after one has logged on.
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at: <https://liberty.wpunj.edu/bb/support-center/> .

WPUNJ Student Email:

To access WPUNJ Student Email point your web browser to <http://wpconnect.wpunj.edu>, enter your username and password, then select the **Mail** tab. If you are logging on for the first time you'll be asked to set your time zone and language.

Blackboard courses will use student email; third-party email addresses will not work on Bb

Good luck and have fun in the course! Vincent N. Parrillo