I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: SOCI 231 American Minority Relations

B. Date of Proposal: Spring 2007

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3

E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3, Laboratory: 0

F. Prerequisites: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

G. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology
This course will examine racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and other minority groups in American society, with particular emphasis on oppression of these minorities.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course provides students with an introduction to the study of minority groups in American society. The need for this course is both societal and academic. At the same time that American society is becoming more diverse, we are increasingly witnessing the consequences of a racial, Nativism and anti-immigration ideologies, lack of tolerance and a growing gap between the majority group and some minority groups. This course provides a theoretical foundation for examining contemporary controversies such as affirmative action, English as the official language, White privilege and reparations for African Americans. It will provide students with the analysis they need to unpack their “common sense” ideas about minorities and inequality by examining concepts of prejudice and discrimination with the context of law and public policy.
IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A.  
- The course will satisfy the Social Science requirement.
- The course is required in the Criminal Justice A. A., Law Enforcement A. A. S. and Human Services A. A. programs
- This course satisfied General Education requirements.
- This course satisfied the diversity requirement.

V. Outline of Course Content

The course will cover:

A. Overview of American Minorities  
   a. Understanding Race and Ethnicity  
   b. Prejudice  
   c. Discrimination  

B. Religion in American Society

C. White Ethnics

D. Non-immigrant Minorities  
   a. Native Americans and Indigenous People  
   b. African Americans and Slavery  
   c. Expansion and Hispanic Populations

E. Immigration Policies and the Making of the United States

F. Older Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups  
   a. African Americans  
   b. Asian Americans: Chinese-Americans and Japanese Americans  
   c. Latinos: Cubans, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans

G. Newer Racial and Ethnic Groups  
   a. East Indians  
   b. Middle Easterners  
   c. Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders  
   d. Central and South Americans  
   e. Caribbeans

H. Women and Gender Minorities

I. Overcoming Exclusion

J. Beyond the United States

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals
Students will:
- develop a basic knowledge of historical, socioeconomic, and political demographics of various minority groups that make up the mosaic of the United States (G. E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7);
- articulate the history of immigration policy in the United States (G. E. 3, 5, 6, and 7);
- understand and compare the experiences of different groups in the United States (G. E. 5 and 6);
- discuss contemporary social issues as they pertain to minority groups in the United States (G. E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7); and
- compare the status of minority groups with minority groups in other countries (G. E. 3, 6, and 7).

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:
- compare, contrast, and apply the basic theoretical paradigms explaining minority group status in American society;
- define, identify, and explain prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism, race, ethnicity and racism as basic building blocks to understand minority-dominant groups relations;
- explain social stratification using various theoretical perspectives to analyze economic, age, racial/ethnic, and gender inequality in a societal context;
- demonstrate basic knowledge of historical, socioeconomic, and political demographics of various groups in the United States;
- discuss how law and public policy have advance and hindered the economic progress of groups;
- evaluate public policies as they apply to minorities;
- analyze the influence of gender, race and ethnicity on personal and/or familial experiences and in the discussion of contemporary controversial issues; and
- compare the status of minority groups in the United States with minority groups in other nations.

**VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- computer-assisted instruction
- student oral presentations
- student collaboration
- independent study
VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

- research
- debates
- essays
- journals
- quizzes and examinations
- annotated bibliographies
- article critiques

IX. Grade Determinants

Grades will be determined based on scores on class participation, quizzes and exams, short papers and research for participation in a debate.

- Class participation
- Individual and group presentations
- Debate participation
- Short papers and research
- Quizzes and Examinations

X. Textbook and Materials

Some suggested texts:


XI. Resources

Students will need access to sociological databases in order to locate and retrieve journal articles for research related to various topics in the field. Online databases and journals are acceptable as long as students are able to access full-text online articles from peer-reviewed research journals.