OVERVIEW

The purposes of this class are two-fold. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to relevant and timely research within sociological and social demographic research on race and ethnicity. Specific areas will include the following: conceptual/measurement issues; population size, growth, and migration; health and mortality; marriage, family, and fertility; socioeconomic context; and policy considerations. The reading materials in this class, for the most part, will be structured around current empirical pieces in the sociology literature with an emphasis on the methodological approach in the analyses. It my hope that this course will provide important opportunities for students’ professional development as researchers. Unfortunately, methods, theory, and substance are often taught as distinct areas. In this class I hope to place equal emphasis on the ideas presented in a particular paper and the analytic strategy employed by the researcher(s). Accordingly, a core component of the class will be the research papers that each of you produce. These papers should be considered professional grade with an eye on future conference presentations or publication in particular scholarly journals.

READINGS

The readings for each week are listed below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are responsible for reading all of the assigned books and articles.
2. Class attendance is mandatory and expected of all students.
3. Participation in class discussion is expected of all students. This discussion means coming to class prepared in terms of the readings, keeping up-to-date with the progress on your paper (discussed below), and being willing to participate in the discussion of other student research papers in a constructive manner. Class participation will count as 15 percent of your final grade.
4. Each student is responsible for preparing a summary of a subset of the readings from the class and add an ending paragraph critiquing (or praising) the literature. These reports should be 1-2 pages in length. My guess is that you will be asked to do 4-5 of these during the semester. Please make enough copies of these to pass out to the entire class; these can be very valuable for the entire set of students for research papers and future reference. This component of the course will make up 10 percent of your final grade.
5. Finally, the major component of this class and of your grade will be the development of an empirical paper, which falls under the broad rubric of the “Social Demography of Race and Ethnicity.” These papers will be worked on from the onset of the course; indeed, I will assign to you the task of creating a general summary of ideas in the first week and, shortly after that, you will be asked to construct a detailed outline. Writing will progress from there. Later in the semester, you will be required to turn in a rough draft of your paper to two other class members, who will provide feedback on your paper. A final version of your paper will be due to me on May 2nd. In your final version, please also attach the rough drafts and/or comments that you received on your work from others in the class. In the last two weeks of course, students will present their papers to the rest of the class in a style similar to a sociology conference. The paper and presentation component of the class will count as 75 percent of your grade. I consider the development of independent research (in consultation with student and faculty colleagues) to be the key component of your graduate education. Collaborative efforts on the research paper and presentation among two students is both acceptable and encouraged.
Week 1: Overview

Week 2: Measurement Issues

Week 3: Immigration and Migration

Week 4: Socioeconomic Status I (Income, Wages, and Assets)

Week 5: Socioeconomic Status II (Work)


Week 6: Socioeconomic Status III (Education)


Week 7: Neighborhoods I (Residential Segregation)


Week 8: Neighborhoods II (Neighborhood Effects)


Week 9: Health I (Birth Outcomes)


**Week 10: Health II (Physical Health)**


**Week 11: Health III (Stress, Distress, and Mental Health)**


**Week 12: Family**


**Week 13: Crime I**


**Week 14: Crime II**


