

Sociology 216 Dynamics of Prejudice

Instructor: Alison Y. Dunn

Office: Room 1092 in Social Sciences

Office Hours: Wednesday 2 to 4:00 PM and by appointment

Phone: 277-8315

Email: It is best to send all course communication to me through WebCT but my email address is: aydunn@unm.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on the study of prejudice and discrimination, including their historical and contemporary sources and prospects for their reduction, with applications to American institutions. We will consider how prejudice and discrimination operate along and across multiple categories of human difference, including: socioeconomic class, race and ethnicity, gender, sex and sexuality, and ability.

Course Objectives

Students should leave this course with a foundation for understanding the causes of prejudice and discrimination and the mechanisms that perpetuate both in society. They will also learn to understand how prejudice and discrimination operate at all levels of social interaction (from the structural, or “macro” level to the interpersonal, or “micro” level). Students will also gain understanding of how prejudice and discrimination across categories of human difference intersect and are woven into the fabric of society. Finally, students will develop their critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills (all of which are essential to this course).

Class discussions

Some of the material we will discuss this semester will be controversial and it is almost certain that we will disagree at times. In spite of any disagreements, we must always treat each other respectfully.

Deadline and make-up policy

You are expected to turn assignments in at or before the designated time. Late work *may* be accepted, with some penalty, in extenuating circumstances (student illness, family illness or death, etc.). It is your responsibility to communicate with me regarding your assignments. It is always best to discuss any issues or challenges to completing an assignment by the due date *before* the assignment is due. Except in the case of illness (with a doctor’s note). I will not offer make-ups for the multiple choice quizzes or in class assignments.

Technological devices in the classroom

Please do not use your cell phone during class time. Ideally, they should be turned off or switched to silent mode. Do not text, or send instant messages/email in class. It is disrespectful and it prevents you from attending to our discussion. If a student persistently violates this request, I may deduct points from his or her class participation grade.

Accessibility services

Any student who, because of disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodations for individual learning needs. UNM will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities. For further information, contact Accessibility Resource Center at (505)277-3506.

Grievances

In situations in which a student believes that he or she has been unfairly or improperly treated by a faculty member, the student should first try to resolve the grievance informally by discussing the grievance with the faculty as soon as possible. If the student and faculty cannot reach agreement, the student should discuss the grievance with the chairperson of the department. If the grievance is still not resolved, the student should discuss the grievance with the appropriate Dean. If you have any questions, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 277-3361.

Required texts (All other course materials will be available on WebCT.)

Ferber, Abby and Christina M. Jiménez, Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, Dena R. Samuels. (2009). *The Matrix Reader: Examining the Dynamics of Oppression and Privilege*. NY, NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
Eitzen, D. Stanley and Kelly Eitzen Smith. (2009). *Experiencing Poverty: Voices from the Bottom*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Grade Composition

Quizzes, 20% (will drop the lowest score)

Midterm essay exam, 20%

Final Exam, 20% (DUE W/JOURNALS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 by 5 PM)

Journal, 10%, and Media assignment 10% each

Class participation/attendance/in-class assignments, 20%

ASSIGNMENT & READING SCHEDULE (First eight weeks)

Foundations and basic concepts	1/20 (W)	Introduction to course
	1/22 (F)	Matrix, Ferber p. 7-15; Samuels p. 39-145
	1/25 (M)	Matrix, Green p.16-21; Weitz p. 246-250
	1/27 (W)	Matrix, Wendell p.93-96; Jaeger and Bowman p. 226-235
	1/29 (F)	Matrix, Allen p. 61-75; Eitzen p. 1-9; REVIEW
	2/1 (M)	QUIZ 1 ; begin film series
Sociological theory and inequality	2/3 (W)	-film series continued
	2/5 (F)	-film series continued
	2/8 (M)	Eitzen p. 13-17; Matrix, Omi & Winant p. 51-56
	2/10 (W)	Matrix, Connell p. 21-34
	2/12 (F)	Matrix, Barone p. 77-92
	2/15 (M)	Matrix, Hill Collins p. 97-107; Acker, 111-116
	2/17 (W)	Matrix, Baca Zinn and Thornton Dill, p. 118-123

	2/19 (F)	REVIEW
	2/22 (M)	QUIZ 2
Structural inequality	2/24 (W)	Matrix, Campbell p. 198-219
	2/26(F)	Matrix, Hess-Biber and Carter p. 336-358; Eitzen p.144-145
	3/1 (M)	Matrix, Rosenblum and Travis p. 251-279;
	3/3 (W)	Matrix, Kimmel p. 44-50
	3/5 (F)	REVIEW; MIDTERMS DISTRIBUTED
	3/8 (M)	Matrix, Samuels p. 502-507; Gallagher p. 548-551
	3/10 (W)	Matrix, Mantsios p. 510-516
	3/12 (F)	MIDTERM EXAMS DUE at 1 PM; In-class observation exercise; Media assignment introduced (due Monday, 3/29)
	3/15-3/19	Spring Break

We will spend the second half of the semester studying: 1) inequality at the meso-level, focusing on inter-group competition; 2) prejudice and inequality at the micro-level, or as it relates to lived experience, daily interactions, and identity formation; and 3) possibilities and models of social change/reform. The assignment and reading schedule for the second half of the semester will be distributed in class.