Race, Ethnicity, and Migration

Instructor: Yao-Tai Li (yal059@ucsd.edu)
Time: TBD
Office Hour: TBD

Course Description
Sociologists are interested in understanding the complexities of race and ethnicity from different perspectives and in explaining how such complexities are produced and reproduced over time and in diverse social settings. This course will particularly focus on the context of migration, because migration involves how race and ethnicity are highlighted, transformed, and understood. In addition, we will examine how race and ethnicity compose networks and influence people’s identities within the migration processes. We will view the social construction of race, ethnicity, and migration as a historically-situated yet shifting process that generates particular social understandings and experiences.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the concepts of race and ethnicity in the migration processes, including how race and ethnicity intersect with migration, as well as how different migration contexts influence the development and significance of race and ethnicity. As such, the course will address theoretical traditions and debates surrounding the concepts of race, ethnicity, citizenship, and immigration policy; grounding in both the history and process of migration in the US and global contexts.

Course Goals
By the end of this course, you will have acquired the following skills:
• a strong awareness of the social meanings of race, ethnicity, and migration
• a capacity for discerning the intersections of race, ethnicity, and migration in diverse contexts
• an understanding of how race and ethnicity associate with migration generate, reproduce, and sometimes mitigate or exacerbate inequalities between groups
• an ability to articulate these concepts from various angles, drawing on contrasting ideas and perspectives, and to critically evaluate their contributions.
• an ability to express, both orally and in writing, your own ideas related to the subject matter

Course Requirement
• Be ready to start class on time
• Read the course materials, prepare questions for class
• Treat everyone with respect
• Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices
• Check your email account daily

Course Materials
The course readings are available online and will be posted on my blog:
https://yaotaili.wordpress.com/teaching/
Office Hours
My office hours and places are TBD. Other time scheduled by appointment via email: yal059@ucsd.edu.

Evaluation
I believe the most effective way of learning is through the process of critically analyzing an issue that you genuinely care about. In this course I do not expect you to memorize theories and their arguments. Instead, I will train your abilities to appropriately apply these theories and relevant data to your own arguments.

Your course grade is based on: class participation, a mid-term exam, an outline of your final paper, and the final essay.

1. Class participation (10%): We will have open and active discussions in class. This means that you will be expected to contribute your thoughts, listen carefully to others, and be prepared to respond to questions and raise questions on a regular basis. I might have in-class assignments occasionally (e.g., ask you to write 1-2 paragraphs of reflection). The objective is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to engage with the readings and topics regularly and actively.

2. Mid-term Exam (40%): You will have an in-class mid-term exam that covers the readings we have gone through in the first half of this course (week 1–8). There will be both short answers and essay questions. I will announce more details one week before the mid-term.

3. Outline of final essay (10%): During the course you will have to prepare a topic that you are most interested in and care about. You can analyze an issue which has or has not been talked about in class. The outline should be no longer than 1 page. The outline should address your research question for the final essay, your main argument, the theories you will have a conversation with, and the data you are going to analyze. It will be due at the end of week 10.

4. Final essay (40%): As mentioned, an important goal of the course is to help you sharpen your skills for developing well-reasoned and well-written arguments that draw on sociological perspectives of immigration. Based on your outline, the final essay is expected to show what you have learned throughout the course and your ability to critically analyze a topic or phenomenon that you care about. For this essay I will particularly focus on your main argument and how well you connect it to the theories and use the data to substantiate it.
Course Schedule
This schedule is subject to revision as we proceed. Any changes will be announced in class.

Week 1 Introduction and Conceptual Frameworks: What Is Race & Ethnicity?
In Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World, chapter 2.

* Reference:

Week 2 How Are Issues of Race & Ethnicity Important in a Migration Context?

Week 3 Historical and Theoretical Contexts for Understanding the Intersection between Race, Ethnicity, and Migration

* References:

Week 4 Immigration Law and Policy: How They Affect Race and Ethnicity

* References:

Week 5 Citizenship: Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.
Bloemraad, Irene. 2006. Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada, chapter 2 and chapter 4

Week 6 Citizenship: Race and Ethnicity in the Global Perspective
* References:

Week 7 Assimilation and Incorporation: Race and Ethnicity in the US

* References:

Week 8 Assimilation and Incorporation: Race and Ethnicity in Global Societies

* References:

• Mid-term exam in class

Week 9 Racial/Ethnic Network

* Reference:

Week 10 Racial/Ethnic Business and Economy
* Reference:

• Final essay outline due

Week 11-12  Racial and Ethnic Identity within Migration

* References:

Week 13-14  Racial/Ethnicized Body within Migration

* Reference:

Week 15-16  Comparing Dynamics of Race, Ethnicity, and Migration

* Reference:

• Final essay due: TBD