**FALL 2016: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at ARLINGTON**

SOCI 5330, Section 001: Special Topic Seminar in Social Differentiation (Race and Ethnicity)

SOCI 4365, Section 004: Special Topic Seminar in Social Differentiation (Race and Ethnicity)

Professor: Jason E. Shelton, Ph.D.

Faculty Profile: <http://www.uta.edu/profiles/jason-shelton>

Office: University Hall #419

Telephone: (817)-272-2661

Email: [jeshelton@uta.edu](mailto:jeshelton@uta.edu)

Office Hours: From 11am to 12pm on MW or by appointment

Time and Place of Class Meetings: M from 2pm to 4:50pm in UH #16

**Course Description:** This course compares and contrasts the immigration, acculturation, and adjustment processes of various racial and ethnic groups in the United States. We will examine conventional and controversial arguments, as well as classical and contemporary theories concerning the dynamics of inter-group relations in America. Some of the more controversial topics in sociology—such as debates over assimilation, Americanization, and enduring conflicts between groups—are the foremost intellectual topics to be addressed. The reading list includes a diverse group of scholars who advance relevant research on race and ethnic relations.

**Required Readings:**

1. Richard Alba and Victor Nee. 2003. *Remaking the American Mainstream*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2. McKee, James. 1993. *Sociology and the Race Problem*. 1993. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
3. Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
4. Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2006. *Racism Without Racists*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
5. Watts Smith, Candis. 2014. *Black Mosaic: The Politics of Black Pan-Ethnic Diversity*. New York: New York University Press.

**Description of Major Assignments and Exams:** This course will consist of one mid-term take-home essay exam (100 points), and one final term paper on a topic of your choice (100 points). Grades will also be based on my subjective assessment of your preparation and effectiveness in leading discussions over particular readings (100 points), as well as your participation in class discussions during the weeks when you are not presenting (100 points). Each week a different group of students will be responsible for leading discussion/debate. Students must email me at least five discussion questions/comments by Monday at 12pm. The take home exam and final paper are considered “late” if they are not submitted by the end of class on the day that they are due (as specified on this syllabus). I will deduct ten points per day until they are submitted, and I do not accept late papers after two days.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be calculated by simply dividing your point total by 400. There are no opportunities for extra credit, and additional work will not be accepted in lieu of missed requirements or failing grades. Students are expected to keep track of their performance via Blackboard throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. The final grading scale is as follows:

A= 90 to 100%

B= 80 to 89%

C= 70 to 79%

D= 60 to 69%

F= 0 to 59%

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least 3 additional hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Attendance Policy:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this course, I **will not** take attendance. However, your class participation grade will suffer if (a) I suspect that you have not done the reading for the week, and (b) you do not show up for class without a valid reason. Also, be here on the exam day because I **do not** give make-ups (unless you have an incredibly valid reason that can be substantiated with evidence).

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

In this course, scholastic dishonesty automatically results in an **F** for the assignment in question, and possibly even an **F** in the course overall. (I highly recommend that you take this policy very seriously; I have no sympathy for students who attempt to cheat on tests or plagiarize papers.)

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>). The final drop date for the **Fall 2016** semester is **November 2nd for undergraduates.**

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364](http://www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

**Non-Discrimination Policy and Title IX:** UT Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/eos](http://www.uta.edu/eos). For more information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring (go to [www.uta.edu/startstrong](http://www.uta.edu/startstrong) for more information), major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

Some important campus phone numbers include:

* Counseling Services: 817-272-3671
* Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention: 817-272-9250
* UTA Police Department: 817-272-3003 (Emergencies) and 817-272-3381 (Non-Emergencies)

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Recording Lectures:** Some classrooms are equipped with technology to record our course lectures. Under such circumstances, it is my discretion (a) whether to make such videos available to students, and (b) when to make them available. **In short, I reserve the right to not release them at all.** Otherwise, please see me if you feel that you need to record class lectures. Also, taking notes for distribution outside the classroom (e.g., for companies that sell lecture notes to students) is strictly prohibited and will be met with very stiff penalties. Finally, out of respect for our scholarly goals, I ask that you place your electronic devices (e.g., cell phone) on silent or vibrate.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit/emergency exit, which varies depending on where you choose to sit within the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Important Dates for the Fall 2016 Term**

Monday August 29th Class Begins

Monday September 5th NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Monday October 31st Mid-Term Essay Exam Due

Wednesday November 2nd Last Day to Drop Classes

Monday December 5th Term Papers Due

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Week 1 (Aug 29th): Welcome: Aims and Expectations

Week 2 (Sep 5th): NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Week 3 (Sep 12th): Alba and Nee, pgs. 1-123

Week 4 (Sep 19th): Alba and Nee, pgs. 215-292

Week 5 (Sep 26th): McKee, pgs. 22-102

Week 6 (Oct 3rd): McKee, pgs.103-144, pgs. 181-221

Week 7 (Oct 10th): McKee, pgs. 222-255, pgs. 337-359

Week 8 (Oct 17th): Portes and Rumbaut, pgs. 1-25, pgs. 44-90

Week 9 (Oct 24th): Portes and Rumbaut, pgs.147-191, pgs.233-286

Week 10 (Oct 31st): **Mid-Term Essay Exam Due (NO CLASS)**

Week 11 (Nov 7th): Bonilla-Silva, pgs. 1-73

Week 12 (Nov 14th): Bonilla-Silva, pgs. 131-207

Week 13 (Nov 21st): Watts Smith, pgs. 1-68

Week 14 (Nov 28th): Watts Smith, pgs. 69-109, pgs. 175-205

Week 15 (Dec 5th): **Final Term Papers Due**