TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY: RACIAL/ETHNIC WOMEN
Sociology 343
Fall, 1994

ROOM: Alumni 208
TIME: Tuesdays & Thursday 9:30-10:50
INSTRUCTOR: Mary Romero
OFFICE HOUR: Tuesday 11:00-12:00 and 3:00-4:00
PHONE: 824-7543

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will examine the lives of women of color in the United States through the work and educational experiences of African American, Latina, Asian American and Native American women. The course with conclude with a discussion of feminist thought and feminism.

Our discussion on work will include both women's paid and unpaid labor and will be analyzed with particular attention given to exploring the race, class and gender systems of domination that shape the experience of various groups of women in particular historical periods. Readings, discussion and class activity will include women in traditional and non-traditional occupations in the formal and informal labor sector. Topics include: women's work culture, occupational segregation, paid and unpaid labor (reproductive labor and volunteer work), discrimination, child care, mobility, the relationship between work and family life. In the informal sector, we will analyze work experiences in the informal and underground economy. Poor, working-class and immigrant women of color have long been over represented in the informal employment sector.

Our discussion on education will focus primarily on the experiences of women of color in higher education, as undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and administrators. Issues and topics to be covered include: the social production of knowledge, mentoring, recruitment and retention, tokism, tracking, the scholarship girl, and institutional racism.

The reading assignments will include both quantitative and qualitative studies. However, unlike traditional approaches to sociology of work and sociology of education a special emphasis will be made on understanding the experience from the women themselves -- through interviews, music, and stories. The writings of scholars of color will be central to the study of women of color's labor and education in the United States.

STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

The seminar will be organized around lectures and discussion of the required readings. Students will be expected to discuss the readings assigned for each class period. Depending on the size of the class, students may work alone or in groups to prepare a discussion and critique of the required reading. Assigned readings will be allocated during the second week of classes.
A Mid-Term and Final Exam will be given. Students will receive a list of possible essay questions prior to the exam. Both exams are "open book" and will be based on the readings and lectures. The final is not comprehensive.

Research Paper. Papers will be based on knowledge gained both from the readings and from the class sessions; they will also require thought, creativity and additional library research. Students are encouraged to explore the range of data that can be used for social science research, including census data, interviews, archival material, music, films, advertising, newspapers, magazines, photographs. Class time will be devoted to recommending coding techniques and data analysis. Students will be expected to share their research findings with the class after Thanksgiving. Research Papers should be at least 10 pages, typed and double space. Papers are due the last day of class, December 6.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Readings</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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<td>Research Project</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**READINGS**

Books:

Articles:


***Articles are available in Library***

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Aug. 30

I. Introduction

Week 1

II. Sociology of Work and Women of Color

Readings: *Theorizing Black Feminisms*, pp. 13-30, 118-126

Week 2

A. Status of Women of Color in the Labor Force

Readings: **Woo, **Geschwender

Week 3

B. Informal Sector and Underground Economy: The Case of Domestic Service

Readings: *Maid in the U.S.A.*, pp. 1-70

Week 4

Readings: *Maid in the U.S.A.*, pp. 71-134

206
**Cohen**

Week 5
2. Formal Sector: Manufacturing, Service & Professions
   **Denton**

Week 6

Week 7
C. Work & Family
   Readings: **Chang, **Wong
   Theorizing Black Feminisms, pp. 44-54

Week 8
D. Work & Community
   Readings: Women of Color, pp. 171-170, 185-202, 229-246

Week 9
III. Sociology of Education and Women of Color
   A. Education as a Tool of Assimilation
      Readings: No Turning Back

   Week 10
      Readings: Women of Color, pp. 43-64
      **Greene, **Foster

   Week 11
      B. Social Production of Knowledge & the Struggle for Transformation
         Readings: Theorizing Black Feminisms, pp. 55-101

   Week 12
      Readings: **Barkley Brown, **Perez, **Farmer, **Bell, **McCombs

      Thanksgiving

Week 14-15
IV. Conceptualizing Race, Class and Gender and Theorizing Feminisms
   Readings: Women of Color, pp. 247-314
   Theorizing Black Feminisms, pp. 267-292
   **Wong, **Gunn Allen, **Hill Collins