

W.P. Holbrook, Ph.D.

Comparative Race Relations

21:014:306

Spring 2018

“Comparative Race Relations” is presented this term as a reading course focused on race relations as they have developed historically in the United States, and comparatively as they have developed in a selected group of other countries, including South Africa, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Cuba. An inter-disciplinary base of readings forms the foundation for classroom presentations, discussions and reviews; and the course calendar also includes a documentary film series. Issues of class and gender are underlined as significant in race perspectives, representations and interactions. A theater trip is also planned as a part of our activities this semester.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. Both a mid-term examination and a final examination are included as a part of our semester’s work. The format for examinations is as follows: roughly 30 to 40 per cent “fill-in-the-blanks”; and roughly 60 to 70 per cent essays. A research paper of 12 to 15 pages is also required. A list of suggested topics for the term paper will be provided during the second week of class. Term paper topics, once chosen, will be narrowed and refined in consultation with the professor and within individual office sessions. Classroom participation is rewarded; students are encouraged to display careful reading of texts, to ask questions, and to add new materials and commentaries.

BOOKS : The following four books have been ordered for your purchase at the Rutgers University Book Store on Halsey Street.

1. Edward Telles. PIGMENTOCRACIES: ETHNICITY, RACE AND COLOR IN LATIN AMERICA. (University of North Carolina Press)
2. Jesmyn Ward. SING UNBURIED SING. (Scribner)
3. Sherrilyn Ifill. ON THE COURTHOUSE LAWN: CONFRONTING THE LEGACY OF LYNCHING IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. (Beacon)
4. Elijah Anderson. THE COSMOPOLITAN CANOPY: RACE AND CIVILITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE. (Norton)

A work which will be used as background in lectures and discussions in class, although not required for purchase, is: SOUTH AFRICA: THE RISE AND FALL OF APARTHEID, by Nancy L. Clark and William H. Worger. (Routledge)

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Several additional short readings will be assigned; students will be required to access and to conduct readings on web sites.

Prof. Holbrook’s Office: 303 Conklin Hall

Hours: Thursdays 1 to 2; and at other times by appointment. Special hours for term paper advisement will be posted (with a list of times for “signing in”) beginning in the third week of the semester.