Course Description

This course looks at how race, sexuality, and class shape society and human lives. Our primary focus will be on their appearance as racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism. Some of the questions we will ask will be:

- What are race, sexuality, and class?
- What factors lead to the historical appearance of systematic racial, sexual, and class differences?
- How do race, sexuality, and class interact to shape individuals and society?
- What can be done to mitigate the ill effects of racism, sexism, and classism?
One of the real strengths of this class is that it deals with the social sciences as a whole and not just from the perspective of a particular discipline. We will use readings from most all the disciplines of the social sciences. This will give us the opportunity to stand back and ask what makes social scientific research ‘social scientific’: what are the methodological presuppositions that unite and connect the social sciences? As such, this course will be an excellent introduction to the social sciences research and methodology. We will also seek to answer these questions about social scientific research, specifically as it pertains to race, class, and gender:

• What are the main elements of social scientific research?
• What is quantitative research?
• What is qualitative research?
• How can we judge the quality of the research?

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be permitted in this class. This includes not only the use of electronic devices but also the visible, audible, or implied existence of them. Any evidence (including audible or visible) of electronic devices will result in a marked absence from the course. Remember that any absence over 3 will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade.

Attendance

Students are allowed three absences. Each absence beyond three will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade. Tardiness, at the instructor’s judgement, can be counted as absences. Normally, the only absences that will be excused are these: officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence for approval.
Core Curriculum Requirements
This course satisfies the 080 Social and Behavioral Sciences core requirement.

Grading Policies
Grades will be assigned as follows: A 100-90, B 89.99-80, C 79.99-70, D 69.99-60, F 59.99-0. The following items will make up the final grade:
Weekly Reading Quizzes 22.5%
Weekly Lecture Quizzes 22.5%
Controversy Essay 15%
Service Learning Project Presentation 20%
Final Essay 20%

Bracero and Farmworker Mural in San Juan

CLICK HERE for a video history of the mural
## Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login.

### Unit 1: Class & Introduction to Social Science Research

| Reading 1.1 | Aug 30 | Hunt & Colander, *Social Science: An Introduction*—No quizzes, autobiography due. |
| Reading 1.2 | Sept 6  | Friedrich Engels, *The Principles of Communism*; Engels & Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* |
| Reading 1.3 | Sept 13 | *Wealth Inequality*, Kochhar and Fry; *The Making of the American 99%*, Ehrenreich; *Institutions and Ideologies*, Parenti; *Media Magic*, Mantsios |

### Unit 2: Gender, Sexuality & Introduction to Quantitative Research

| Reading 2.1 | Sept 20 | Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*; Dave Gustafson, *By the Numbers: Sex Crimes on Campus* |
| Reading 2.2 | Sept 27 | Jonathan Katz, *The Invention of Heterosexuality*; *I am Alena*, Ed Pilkington; *La Prieta*, Gloria Anzaldúa |
| Reading 2.3 | Oct 4   | *Homophobia as a Weapon of Sexism*, Suzanne Pharr; *Domestic Workers Bill of Rights*, Ai-jen Poo; *A New Vision of Masculinity*, Thompson |

**Controversy** Oct 11

**Controversy Essay Due**; Controversy Exercise

**Professor Conference** Oct 18

No class, no quizzes, no readings; **Presentation Part #1 due.**

### Unit 3: Race & introduction to Qualitative Research

| Reading 3.1 | Oct 25 | DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*; **Presentation Part #2 due.** |
| Reading 3.2 | Nov 1   | Barbara Fields, *Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America*; Alsultany, *Los Intersticios: Recasting Moving Selves*; **Presentation Part #3 due.** |
| Reading 3.3 | Nov 8   | Professor Conference, no class meeting **BUT** complete reading and quizzes for Bowman, *Blood Oranges* |
| Reading 3.4 | Nov 15  | Gloria Anzaldúa, *How to Tame a Wild Tongue*; Bonilla-Silva, *Color Blind Racism* |

**Thanksgiving Break** Nov 22

No class, no readings, no quizzes

**Presentations** Nov 29

**Service Learning Presentations Part 1**

**Final Day of Class** Dec 4

**ONLY TUESDAY CLASS! Service Learning Presentations Part 2**

**Final Essay Due** Dec 13

By 10:00pm on Blackboard
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about: November 15 – December 5.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.