Instructor: Dr. Igor Ryabov  
ELABN 342A  
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Required textbook:  

Course Description and prerequisites:  
An analysis of intergroup relations among minority groups and the dominant group with special focus on patterns of conflict, change, adjustment, power and inequality among such groups. Some in-depth description of the problems and characteristics of major American minorities. Prerequisite: Six hours of sociology or consent of instructor.

Course Description:  
This course analyzes the social histories, conditions, and current challenges confronting various minority groups in the U.S. Various competing theoretical frameworks are utilized, and the general principles of dominant-minority group relations are examined. The course offers different perspectives on race and ethnic relations, including social-psychological, functionalist, and conflict approaches provide analysis of the causes of different patterns of race and ethnic relations. This takes students back to the roots of inequality and conflict to gain a deeper understanding of issues that still affect their lives today, and encourages them to critically evaluate the arguments these perspectives make about race and ethnic relations.

Learning Outcomes:  
1. Students will be able to identify social problems in race and ethnic relations.  
2. Students will demonstrate critical thinking about prejudice and discrimination.  
4. Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the theoretical explanations of majority-minority relations.

Course Requirements:  
1. This is a fully online course which means that 100% of the course content delivered online. The course is available via Blackboard. It means that students are required to be familiar with Blackboard prior to taking this course. Students are required to have access to features of the course contained within a Blackboard platform.  
2. The use of Discussion is expected, although it not a part of the final grade. Discussion amongst peers is crucial and extremely beneficial in conceptualizing the issues being addressed. Also keep in mind that participation should be conducted in a professional, academic manner. Reactions that do not reflect quality, critical and well thought out analysis will not receive credit. Please remember that this is an academic, professional learning environment and your participation should reflect
such standards. Discussion etiquette should replicate that found within the traditional classroom environment. Please provide respect for your peers by offering articulate responses based in critical analysis.

3 **NO MAKE-UP TESTS AND EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS COURSE.** Failure to take a test or an exam will result in a zero grade.

4 Please refer to UTRGV’s policies concerning attendance, scholastic integrity, etc. (see below).

### Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Tests (each = 10%)</td>
<td>90-100 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>80-89 B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-79 C</td>
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<td>60-69 D</td>
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<td>&lt;60 F</td>
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**Grading Scale**

Note: Each test covers one chapter of the textbook.

### Schedule (subject to change).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Week(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1; Introduction; Class Policies.</td>
<td>1; 2-3; Test 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-3; Test 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4-5; Test 2</td>
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<td>6-7; Test 3</td>
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<td>8-9; Test 4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10-11; Test 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12-13; Test 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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</table>

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at http://my.utrgv.edu at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Fall 2017 include:

- **Aug 28**: Fall classes begin
- **Aug 31**: Last day to add or register for Fall classes
- **Sept 1**: Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) for a 80% refund
- **Sept 4**: Labor Day Holiday, no classes
- **Sept 13**: Census day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
- **Nov 15**: Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
- **Nov 23 - Nov 25**: Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes
- **Dec 7**: Study Day, no classes
- **Dec 8 – Dec 14**: Final Exams

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **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 (https://my.utrgv.edu/home); 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:

| November 15 - December 6 | Fall 2017 Full Semester |

**Important Notes:**
- Only Faculty can see students’ written comments and responses to optional questions.
- Students may customize their course evaluations until the evaluation window opens, after which point no changes can be made.
- Evaluations from any student who completed an evaluation and then dropped the course will be swept from the system and enrollment numbers adjusted after the drop deadline.
- Evaluations may NOT be reset in any circumstance. Individual student surveys cannot be traced.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in 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 and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**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](http://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 in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:** According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.