Sociology 481
Race and Class Segregation in the United States
Spring 2005
Tuesdays, 9:30 - 12:10
213 O’Brian Hall

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Office hours: Tuesday 4:15-6:00
Other times by appointment only.

Course Readings and Supplies
4. Articles are available for download or printing from the UB Learns website.

** Please bring a calculator to class on 1/25.

Objective
Segregation negatively impacts society and inter-group relations. It limits opportunities for social contact between group members, which can foster inter-group hostility and impede inter-group understanding. It restricts minority group members access to social and economic opportunities, making it more difficult for them to take part in the American Dream. It concentrates poverty, joblessness, and other social problems in minority neighborhoods, which can create a culture of dependency and despair.

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of how different groups of Americans are segregated from one another. We will examine many different forms of segregation. We will examine the extent to which persons with different racial and ethnic backgrounds, class backgrounds, and lifestyles and cultural tastes live near or far from one another. We will investigate the extent to which poverty, joblessness, and other forms of social disadvantage are concentrated in certain neighborhoods. We will discuss the causes and consequences of spatial segregation.

Requirements
There are two main requirements for this course. First, students are expected to attend every class and actively participate in class discussions. I do not believe in assigning more reading than can realistically be done in the course of a week. Consequently, I try very hard to assign a manageable amount of reading. All students are, therefore, expected to come to class prepared to discuss all the assigned readings. Being prepared means that you have carefully read all the assigned readings and have taken notes on these readings. At both the mid-term exam and the final exam I will ask you to hand in your notebook on the readings with your exam.

Second, students are expected to perform satisfactorily on three exams. Exams are NOT cumulative. The first exam will cover the material discussed in the first third of class. The second exam will cover only the material covered in the second third of class (i.e., after the first exam). The third exam will cover only the material covered in the last third of class (i.e., after the second exam). Each exam will be an in-class essay exam. Exams will be open book and students will be allowed to use their notes on the course readings and class discussion. Students will be expected to hand in their notebooks at the end of each exam. Both your essays and your notebooks will be graded.
Grading

I. Attendance
   100 points (3 allowed absences)

II. Class Participation
   25 points

III. Exam I
   125 points total
   Essays
   Notebook
   100 points
   25 points

IV. Exam II
   125 points total
   Essays
   Notebook
   100 points
   25 points

IV. Exam III
   125 points total
   Essays
   Notebook
   100 points
   25 points

Total
   500 points

Make-Up Exams
Make-up exams will be given, but you will be penalized 30%. Make-up exams must be completed within 1 week of the original exam date and time. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from taking an exam, you are expected to contact me via e-mail or phone before the exam date to discuss alternatives. Should such communication not occur, you will be penalized as described above.

Grading Scale:

A   = 94.00 and above
A-  = 90.00 - 93.99
B+  = 87.00 - 89.99
B   = 84.00 - 86.99
B-  = 80.00 - 83.99
C+  = 77.00 - 79.99
C   = 74.00 - 76.99
C-  = 70.00 - 73.99
D+  = 67.00 - 69.99
D   = 60.00 - 66.99
F   = 59.99 and below

Academic Honesty:

Be forewarned, if you plagiarize someone else’s work or cheat in any other way, you will fail this course. If you quote without using quotation marks and properly citing your source, you will fail this course. Plagiarism often falls into a gray area. If you think that there is any possibility that what you might be doing is plagiarism, either error on the side of caution and provide a proper citation or stop by my office and we can discuss the issue. Cheating on an exam will be treated the same as plagiarism.

Official Notices from the University
If you need special accommodations for learning or have special needs, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.
Course Schedule

Week 1: 1/18/05: Introduction to the Course; Student Introductions; How to Excel in This Class

Week 2: 1/25/05: Segregation in Buffalo; Segregation Measures

Reading for Class:


Week 3: 2/1/05: Trends in Racial and Ethnic Segregation

Reading for Class:


Week 4: 2/8/05: Causes

Reading for Class:


Week 5: 2/15/05: Causes

Reading for Class:


Week 6: 2/22/05: Exam #1

Week 7: 2/29/05: Consequences

**Reading for Class:**


Week 8: 3/1/05: Consequences


Week 9: 3/8/05: Economic Segregation

**Reading for Class:**


Week 10: 3/15/05: Spring Break No Class!!

Week 11: 3/22/05: The Segregation of the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged

**Reading for Class:**


Week 12: 3/29/05: Exam #2

Week 13: 4/5/05: Segregation by Lifestyle and Tastes

Reading for Class:


Week 14: 4/12/05: Cause for Optimism: Beyond Segregation

Reading for Class:

1. Maly, Beyond Segregation: Multiracial and Multiethnic Neighborhoods in the United States (1st Half)

Week 15: 4/19/05: Cause for Optimism: Beyond Segregation

Reading for Class:

1. Maly, Beyond Segregation: Multiracial and Multiethnic Neighborhoods in the United States (2nd Half)

Week 16: 4/26/05: Exam #3

Syllabus subject to change with notification at instructors discretion.