

**Sociology 238 Ethnic Groups**  
**Fall 2007 West Virginia University**  
**Susan C. Pearce, PhD**

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Section 002: 8:30-9:45 AM; Section 001: 10:00-11:45  
125 Brooks Hall

Office: Knapp Hall Room 318

Office hours: Tues/Thurs 1:15-2:45 AM  
and by appointment

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(Please put our course number and section number in the subject line when e-mailing me. Please use e-mail sparingly. If you email on a weekend, do not expect to reach me until Monday.)

Amanda Martin: Graduate Teaching Assistant: **email:** amarti19@mix.wvu.edu

**Telephone:** 304-293-5801 x3219 **Office:** SB17 Knapp Hall (Sub-basement)

**Course Overview**

Ethnicity is one of the most critical areas of inquiry for twenty-first century societies. People are migrating across borders in the highest numbers ever. Conflicts between ethnic groups over land, rights, religious expression, and political power continue to infuse politics around the globe. In transitional societies, we have witnessed a resurgence of nationalism. On a personal level, people continue to find meaning and community in traditional ethnic identities, even when removed from their ancestry. We are left with many practical questions, such as how to determine immigration policy, and whose voices count in those decisions. And what does ethnic identity mean for people who are the children of mixed backgrounds?

This course will provide an introduction to the study of ethnic groups and identity both in the United States and globally. In order to serve the majors in the new Eastern Europe and Slavic Studies program, we will spend half of the semester learning about ethnicity in Eastern Europe and Eastern European immigrants to the United States. We will discuss a range of questions, such as the intersections between ethnicity, social class, religion, and gender. We will learn what present-day researchers and theorists have to say about ethnicity today. The course will be highly interactive, and will incorporate films, small group discussions, and guest speakers. By the end of the course, you will be familiar with:

- Current race and ethnic issues at home and around the globe
- Immigration issues in the United States and post 9/11 challenges
- Experiences of immigrant groups in the United States, including Eastern Europe
- Sociological theories of ethnicity and immigration and theoretical debates
- Eastern European experiences and issues with ethnic identity

**Required Books**

Ellen Alexander Conley, *Chosen Shores: Stories of Immigrants*. University of California Press 2004

Asra Q. Nomani, *Standing Alone In Mecca* HarperSanFrancisco 2005

Istvan Pogani, *The Roma Café* London and Sterling, VA. : Pluto Press, 2004

Lola Romanucci-Ross, George A. de Vos, and Takeyuku Tsuda, *Ethnic Identity* Fourth Edition. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press 2006

Additional articles on E-Reserve: indicated on syllabus. Prof Name: pearce Password: **654**

## Course Requirements

*It is very important to do all of the readings, reflect on them, and come to class ready to discuss them.* Our discussions will draw heavily from the readings, and you will need to read the texts as a baseline for our discussions, as we will go beyond what you have read in order to do applications and comparisons.

Test 1 25% of grade

Oral history essay 20% of grade

Test 2 25% of grade

Unannounced quizzes, homework assignments, in-class assignments 10% of grade

Final Exam 20% of grade

Grading scale:

94-100 A

90-93 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

67-69 D+

60-66 D

0-59 F

Please note that failure to hand in any assignments, or handing any in late, will lower your grade considerably.

Diversity in Learning: I am attentive to, and respect, all styles of learning. If you have an academic disability of some type, please let me know how to accommodate you. If you are speaking English as a second or other language, please let me know how to make the class accessible to you.

Academic Honesty: It is your responsibility to learn and adhere to the university's policy on academic honesty. If a test or paper contain work that is not your own (including copying entire sections from another source without citing the source), you will fail that assignment, which could result in failure for the course. I will also report the incident to the university administration office responsible for academic honesty. *I take this very seriously and thoroughly investigate any possibility of plagiarism.*

Oral history essay: Conduct an interview with one member of an ethnic group of your choice, preferably from a different group than your own. This individual could be a family member, a student, faculty member, or friend. Write a descriptive essay about the results of the interview and apply sociological concepts (such as assimilation or acculturation) to the individual's story.

Tests: Tests will consist of multiple choice, true false and possible essay questions, and will cover reading materials and class lectures/discussions. *Makeup tests are given at my discretion, depending upon the circumstances. Our department allows only one makeup test per semester. The test must be made up as soon as possible after missing the in-class test.*

Quizzes and assignments: These will be assigned across the semester. Quizzes on the readings will be unannounced, so it is imperative that you do the readings for every class session.

Attendance is extremely important in order to pass this class. Some material will only be covered in class and will appear on the tests. In addition, 10% of your grade will come from regular homework, quizzes, and in-class assignments. I will take attendance regularly using a new automated system. If you are on the cusp between two grades at the end of the semester, I will only consider the higher grade for those with outstanding attendance and participation.

## Course Schedule

Tuesday August 21 Introduction to the course and to each other

Lecture on Ethnicity, Immigration, and Introduction to Eastern Europe

Thursday August 23 Early immigration to the United States; Sociological Approaches to Immigration

Reading: Thomas and Znaniecki, *The Polish Peasant* (excerpt) (ON E-RESERVE)

Tuesday August 28 Judaism in Eastern Europe, Histories of Genocide

Reading: Robert Blobaum, "Criminalizing the 'Other': Crime, Ethnicity, and Antisemitism in Early Twentieth-Century Poland" (ON E-RESERVE)

Thursday August 30 Viewing of the film "Avalon" (directed by Barry Levinson) in class

Reading: Conley, *The Chosen Shore* pp. xiii-xviii (foreward); pp. 1-15 (1/2 of Introduction)

Tuesday September 4 Completion of viewing of the film "Avalon" in class

Reading: Conley, pp. 16-25 (rest of Introduction), pp. 47-62 (Story of Azra Hodzic)

Thursday September 6 Immigrant Stories

Reading: Conley, pp. 29-46 (story of Edeline Decossard), pp. 63-72 (Story of Tommy DeLuise), pp. 102-120 (Story of Navid Daei), pp. 143-156 (Story of Rosemond Reimmer)

Tuesday September 11 Immigrant Stories: Post 9/11; Immigration Policy Today

Reading: Conley, pp. 255-262 (story of Zohra Saed), pp. 263-270 (story of Ibrahim Mojaddedi), pp. 271-283 (Story of Irfan Malik)

Thursday September 13 Immigration Policy continued

Reading: Conley, pp. 87-101 (story of Diane Barker) pp. 157-168 (story of Edel Rodriguez), pp. 177-184 (story of Jorge Murillo Meza), pp. 240-244 (story of Manuel Ortiz)

Tuesday September 18 Understanding Ethnicity and Inter-Ethnic Relations

Reading: Romanucci-Ross, *Ethnic Identity* Introduction pp. 1-33

Thursday September 20 Ethnicity in Eastern Europe

Reading: Romanucci-Ross, *Ethnic Identity* pp. 72-87 "Vilnius, Lithuania," pp. 295-310 "Becoming Rom," pp. 88-114 "Ethnic Identity in the Former Yugoslavia" TEST REVIEW

Tuesday September 25 TEST 1 (In Class)

Thursday September 27

Ethnicity and Nation in Japan

Reading: Romanucci-Ross, *Ethnic Identity*, pp. 119-151, pp. 208-228

Tuesday October 2 South Africa and Apartheid

Reading: Romanucci-Ross, *Ethnic Identity* pp. 346-372

Thursday October 4 African Americans and Ethnicity; Affrilachia

Reading: W.E.B. DuBois, excerpts from "The Souls of Black Folk" (ON E-RESERVE);

AND Affrilachia: Poems from the website "Coal Black Voices": Read the posted poem by several of the poets on this site. (Go to the following link and click on "Affrilachian Poets")

<http://www.mwg.org/production/documentary/voices/poets/index.html>

Tuesday October 9 Race and Hurricane Katrina

Reading: "Reframing Crime in a Disaster" and "Saxophones, Trumpets, and Hurricanes" (ON E-RESERVE)

Thursday October 11

Reading: "Hip, Hot, and Proud to be Roma" (ON E-RESERVE)

AND Pogany, *The Roma Cafe* Intro pp. 1 -21

Tuesday October 16 The Roma in Eastern Europe

Reading: Pogany, *The Roma Cafe* "The Hairy Thing that Bites, or why Gypsies shun Gadje" pp. 22-34

"The Devouring" pp. 35-47

Thursday October 18

Reading: Pogany, *The Roma Cafe* "Maybe Tomorrow there Won't even be Bread" pp. 48-62  
"The Czardas" pp. 63-83

Tuesday October 23

Reading: Pogany, *The Roma Cafe* "Nomads" pp. 84-103  
"Aniko" pp. 104-126

Thursday October 25 Roma and Human Rights Today

Reading: "Pogany, *The Roma Cafe* The Lambada" pp. 127 – 146  
"The Roma Café" pp. 147-160

Tuesday October 30

TEST 2 (In Class)

Thursday November 1 Culture, Religion, and Gender

Reading: "Russia: A Muslim Country?" (ON E-RESERVE)  
AND Nomani, *Standing Alone in Mecca* pp. 3-32;

Tuesday November 6

Reading: Nomani, pp. 36-112

Thursday November 8

Reading: Nomani, pp. 115-164

Tuesday November 13

Reading: "Azerbaijan: Something Old, Something New" (ON E-RESERVE)  
AND Nomani, pp. 167-228

Thursday November 15

Reading: Nomani, pp. 229-291

THANKSGIVING RECESS – NO CLASSES

Tuesday November 27 Poland and Memory Battles: The Holocaust and the Solidarity Movement

Reading: Janine P. Holc "Memory Contested: Jewish and Catholic Views of Auschwitz in Present-Day Poland" (ON E-RESERVE)

Thursday November 29 **Oral History paper due**

Eastern European ethnicity through music and dance

Tuesday December 4 On the horizons: Critical Race Theory and Critical Mobilities Research

Reading: Romanucci-Ross *Ethnic Identity* pp. 239-261 "Peasants, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Location in Thailand"

Thursday December 6 Course summary: Ethnicity, Race, Nationalism

Reading: Romanucci-Ross *Ethnic Identity* pp. 375-398 Exam Review

**FINAL EXAM: The exam will cover cumulative material across the course, with heavier concentration on last 1/3 of semester**

SECTION 002 (8:30 AM Class): December 11 (Tuesday) 3:00 PM —Brooks 125

SECTION 001 (10:00 AM Class): December 13 (Thursday) 11:00 AM —Brooks 125