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Office Hours: Friday immediately following class.  
Other times by appointment/ CLASS MEETS FRIDAY 9:00-11:45  
SPRING 2007

**JS 132**  
**RACE, GENDER, INEQUALITY AND THE LAW**  
**(ADVANCED GE, AREA S)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

History of legal issues and definitions of individual and institutional discrimination. Laws relating to women, ethnic and cultural minorities, gays and lesbians and the disabled in education, labor market, criminal justice system and family relations. Recent court decisions on affirmative action and reverse discrimination. Solutions explored for structured equality and inequality in the U.S.

**PREREQUISITES**

Completion of Core GE, satisfaction of WST, and upper division standing.  
**Note:** Courses to meet Areas R,S and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

AT THE TIME OF THE FINAL STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Define concepts of different cultural/social identities and theories of prejudice and discrimination from a multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective. Met by research paper and examinations.
2. Describe the legal history and current legal context of minority group and gender discrimination. Met by research paper and examinations.
3. Identify the structural sources of inequality and equality in major societal institutions; family, education, labor market, criminal justice, and religion, and how these inequalities are reflected in the law. Met by small group discussions, research paper and examinations
4. Analyze case law and constitutional guidelines in reviewing claims of discrimination by women and men, racial/ethnic and religious minorities and the aged, the disabled, and persons of different sexual orientation. Met by small group discussion, research paper and examinations.

5. Analyze competing legal rights of men and women in domestic relations including marriage, reproduction, adoption, child custody and divorce. Met by research paper and examinations.
6. Analyze legal and social developments in issues relating to sexual harassment, hate crimes, and affirmative action/reverse discrimination. Met by small group discussion, research paper and examinations.
7. Identify social and political movements offering solutions to structured inequality between people of different race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, age, sexual orientation and ability. Met by small group discussion, research paper and examinations.
8. Recognize your own and others' attitudes towards racism, sexism and discrimination of all groups. Met by small group discussions, research papers and examinations.
9. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural and social groups and identities in the U.S. Met by small group discussion, research paper and examinations.
10. Gain greater competence in research and writing skills. Met by research paper.
11. Gain greater verbal articulation skills, and ability to communicate with people of different background and identities. Met by class participation and small group discussions.

### **GE OBJECTIVES:**

After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

- describe how religious, gender, ethnic, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age are shaped by cultural and societal influences in contexts of equality and inequality;

- describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;

- describe social actions by religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age groups leading to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; and

- recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in the U.S.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Rothenberg, Paula (2004). Race, Class and Gender in the United States, NY: Worth Publishing, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

Lindgren & Taub(2005). Law of Sex Discrimination, Minneapolis, MN: West Publishing.  
3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

You are responsible for reading assignments before class lecture and bringing appropriate text to class for discussion purposes. Class notes are essential and should be obtained from classmates if you miss class. Please do not ask to copy the instructors notes..

Three exams are required; two midterms and a final administered in class during the final examination period. A total of 3500 words of writing is required for credit in the class. Each exam is 2/3's essay (approximately 500-600 words) and 1/3 multiple choice. A research paper 8-10 pages in length (2000-2500) words is also required for a total of 3500 or more words. A handout on the paper will be provided outlining topics, research requirements, format, outlines, due date and grading procedures. We will conduct a library tour outside class time if necessary. Instructor will provide extensive feedback on research paper drafts submitted at least two weeks before paper due date. Additionally, two in class structured written assignments are required. They will be based on videos, and will be a review of major concepts of equality and inequality. Small group discussions based on the Rothenberg readings and will be spaced every 2-3 weeks. Participation in the group will be evaluated by the instructor and points distributed. Students will also review major issues discussed in their research in a class presentation.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Regular class attendance is expected. Outstanding class participation may result in the improvement of the final grade by 1/2 grade point. Readings must be completed prior to the class meeting to promote understanding and informed class discussion. Students must bring the appropriate text--Rothenberg if small group discussions; Lindgren if case law discussion. Check the greensheet to ensure you are prepared. If you are absent you must rely on classmates for notes. Do not ask the instructor for her notes. Missed exams and in class assignments may only be made up only for compelling reasons. They will be administered during finals week, but the instructor must have received notice of the absence!

## **EVALUATION**

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Midterm #1             | 100 pts. |
| Midterm #2             | 100 pts. |
| Final                  | 100 pts. |
| Research Paper draft   | 50 pts   |
| Research Paper         | 150 pts  |
| In class assignmts. x2 | 50 pts.  |
| group discussions      | 50 pts   |
| Extra credit; up to    | 50 pts   |

Total: 600 pts plus Extra Credit

Exams will receive a letter grade and a point distribution will illustrate class standing. Extra credit may be generated based on additional readings provided by the instructor.

Please speak to the instructor if you are interested. Your final grade in the class will be curved against the rest of the class but again, may be enhanced by either outstanding class participation or extra credit. Note: If you are 15 minutes late for an exam, without a valid excuse, you may not take the exam. You may only be late for one exam. **Research papers and drafts may not be emailed!**, they may be faxed to the Justice Studies Department. Late papers will be deducted 10 points for each day late. Missed exams without proper documentation will be credited as an "F". It is your job to inform the instructor of anticipated missed exams etc. All written materials should be backed up on your computer or on a disk.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

Extra credit will consist of additional reading in a specific topic area or viewing of a film the instructor has chosen as particularly relevant to our coursework. Students will write a reflection paper (separate handout) of 3-4 pages in length and receive up to 20 points depending on the quality of the work. *Suggestions for extra credit will be italicized in the syllabus.*

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who need accommodation due to disability must register with the Disabilities Resource Center. The Center will assess disability, document it, and provide acceptable accommodation. The DRC will contact the instructor to determine the type of consideration needed. DRC website <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

## **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will both fail the course and be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer. A report of the incident may be included in your academic record which may be accessed by future employers. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by enrollment at San Jose State University, and the Universities Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic work. The policy on academic integrity can be found at : <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/SO4-12.htm>. For more information on what constitutes this infraction, take the SJSU Library tutorial at <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1**

#### **I INTRODUCTION-MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

- A. Concepts of identity, race, gender, ethnicity, class  
Readings: Rothenberg: intro.pgs.5-10 articles 1, 3,7, 9,13,14,16, 21.
- B. Hate Crimes; video Shadow of Hate or Crash.  
Class notes only

### **WEEK 2**

- C. Discrimination and the law  
Historical context: Rothenberg: articles 22, 35, 38,41  
Lindgren: cp. 2- pg. 51-90
- D. **Small group discussion on Rothenberg readings**
- E. Theories of Prejudice and Discrimination handout  
*Extra credit: Gish Jen (1999) Who's Irish? O'Hearn (1998)Half & Half ,(writers on growing up Biracial and Bicultural;) reflection paper format(10-20 pts) Film: American History X. (10 pts).*

### **WEEK 3**

#### **II HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF DISCRIMINATION**

- A.. Native Americans  
Readings: Rothenberg; articles 31, 83,97
- B. **Video Ishi, in class writing assignment.**  
*Extra credit: Silko(1977) Ceremony; Reflection paper 10 points,Louise Erdrich-any of her novels-see instructor, Sherman Alexie, The Toughest Indian in the World, reflection paper 10 points.*

### **WEEK 4**

- C. African-Americans  
Readings: Rothenberg: articles 84,85,86,90,91,92,93,98,101  
**CASELAW HANDOUT**  
*Extra credit: Mcbride: The Color of Water (1997) Reflection paper 10 pts. film: Amistad, 1999*

- . D. Video on Emmit Till time permitting

**FIRST MIDTERM EXAM; ESSAY QUESTIONS  
DISTRIBUTED, DUE MARCH 9TH OBJECTIVE IN CLASS  
MARCH 16 SCANTRON NEEDED. PAPER TOPICS DUE  
AND APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR**

**WEEK 5**

- E. Hispanics  
Readings: Rothenberg: articles 66, 67, 68  
*Extra credit: Alvarez(1992) How the Garcia Girls Lost  
Their Accents; or Film Spanglish 2004*  
**Video: Zoot Suit Riots-** PBS 2004 *time permitting*  
**In class writing assignment**

**WEEK 6**

- F. Asians  
Rothenberg: articles 30, 60, 61, 62, 63  
*Extra credit: Liu(1998) The Accident  
Asian; Huston (1972) Farewell to Manzanar; Reflection  
paper.*

**G. Video: Japanese Internment**

**Small group discussion** time permitting

\*\*\* PAPER OUTLINES & BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE \*\*\*

**WEEK 7**

- H. Religious Minorities  
Review Hate Crimes  
Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Amish  
Readings: Rothenberg: articles 4, 29

**WEEK 8**

**III STRUCTURED EQUALITY AND INEQUALITY**

- A. Gender Discrimination/Patriarchal tradition  
Legal discrimination  
Readings: Lindgren Cp. 1; stop on page 35  
Rothenberg: article 17
- B. **Small Group Discussion**

**WEEK 9**

- C. Equal employment opportunity  
Readings: Lindgren Cp. 4  
Rothenberg: articles 48, 53, 54

**WEEK 10**

- D. Working conditions, Lindgren 5 pg. 201-222 sex

**SECOND MIDTERM ESSAY QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED;  
DUE APRIL 16**

**WEEK 11**

- F. Educational Opportunities, Lindgren Cp. 6; cases only

**WEEK 12**

**IV POWER AND CLASSISM**

- A. Domestic Relations including Gays/Lesbians/transsexuals  
(lecture notes only) Readings: Lindgren Cp. 7

B. Reproductive Choices  
Lindgren: Cp. 8.

**WEEK 13**

**C. RESEARCH PAPERS DUE MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

D. Homelessness  
Class notes

E. Disabilities & Law  
Class Notes

Rothenberg, articles 9, 79

F. SEXUALITY/SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
Lindgren Cp.9 pg.508-519

**WEEK 14**

**V CULTURAL PLURALISM & EQUALITY  
CHALLENGES FOR OUR FUTURE**

CONCLUSIONS/REVIEW/SUGGESTIONS

**Readings: Rothenberg articles 116, 117, 118, 121. Class  
survey;**

**WEEK 15**

**REVIEW/MAKEUP EXAMS**

**LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION MAY 15**

**FINAL EXAM**

**MONDAY MAY 21 7:15-9:30**

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**RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS: Students must complete the paper to receive a  
Grade in the course.**

1. The paper must be a total of 8 typed pages, 12 font, 27 lines per page. Quotes should not be longer than a few lines, and be single spaced and Indented.
2. A bibliography using APA format must be included.
3. Every idea that is not your own must be cited! Cite with a footnote either incorporated on the page, or entered at the end of your paper as a sources cited page.
4. Each paper must contain four scholarly sources which are used in your analysis. Scholarly sources are academic journals such as *The Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Criminology*, *Sociology*, *Social Research*. We will spend time in class distinguishing the various types of sources and which are most helpful in this project.
5. Students must keep a copy of their draft and final paper on a disk.
6. College papers should never contain gratuitous profanity, even if it's a quote!

**RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES: Students must complete the paper according to the guidelines in order to receive a final grade in the course.**

1. Students will choose a book from the attached list, or have one of their own choices cleared by the instructor. I will have a binder in my office with material on the book supplied by Amazon, reviews, price etc. Students should peruse this binder in making their selection. It will save shopping time.
2. The books are generally autobiography, biography, ethnography or even fiction. They are compelling presentations of injustice, discrimination, prejudice or insurmountable obstacles faced by individuals. All are excellent reading and cover most areas in our curriculum. I will be adding and subtracting from this list as publishing in this area is prolific.
3. Your job is to analyze the book, using the attached format, augmented with sources, and guided by the principles and concepts we will be studying this semester. There is much wonderful writing in this area that I urge you to choose a book which contains an issue of relevance to you. It may be an issue of current or historical ethnic discrimination, gender inequality, unfairness or illegality in the workplace. Any and all issues discussed in class or contained in our curriculum are appropriate.
4. An outline of the paper is due on the date in the greensheet. Copies of the journal articles must be attached. I will make suggestions for revisions and return them to the students. No final paper will be accepted without an outline I will also expect to speak to all students regarding the paper.

**RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT**

1. Reason for the student's book choice (10 pts)
2. Historical background of discrimination or inequality (15 pts)
3. Examples of individual or institutional discrimination or injustice (15 pts)
4. Relationship between members of dominant and subordinate groups (15 pts)
5. Effects of oppression or injustice in terms of assimilation, denial of economic opportunity, lifestyle choices, incarceration, autonomy, etc. (20 pts)
6. How the justice system responded (or didn't) to the discrimination or injustice (15 pts)
7. What are possible solutions to the injustices/discrimination presented in your book?  
Litigation,  
Class Actions, legislation, education of the public, societal change? (20 pts)

8. What was your personal response to the book? Believable? Well written? Overwhelming?

What did you learn from the book?(20 pts)

9. Sources , bibliography, footnotes.(10 pts)

10.Presentation, grammar, syntax, spelling, paragraphs (15 pts)

#### BOOK SUGGESTIONS: PARTIAL LIST

Stannard, David, *Honor Killing, How the Infamous Massie Affair transformed Hawaii*  
Excellent look at colonial racism in Hawaii in the 1930's. Contains Clarence Darrow's last case.

Bernstein, Nell, *All Alone in the World, Children of the Incarcerated* fate of children left behind  
When parents are incarcerated. Excellent.

Kogawa,Joy, *Obasan*, (Japanese internment during WWII)

Fadiman, Anne, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, (cultural and medical clashes  
Between Hmong Chinese and American medicine in California) excellent.

Starn, Orin, *Ishi's Brain*, (recent account of Ishi's life, the anthropologists who studied him and  
ethnocentricity) Excellent

Alexie, Sherman, *The Toughest Indian in the World*, current native american experience from  
Point of view of writer, poet, comedien. excellent

Crow Dog, Mary, *Lakota Woman*, autobiography of a native american woman's struggle to  
Overcome oppression

Kai, Irene, *Golden Mountain, Beyond the American Dream*, memoir of Chinese women in the  
US.

Harth, Erica, Last Witnesses, Reflections on the Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans.

Arviso, Lori, *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear* (memoir of the first Navajo woman surgeon)

Ball, Edward, *Slaves in the Family* ( a white man's search into his African-American past)

Brenner, Claudia, Eight Bullets: One Woman's Story of Surviving Anti-Gay Violence

Colapinto, John, As Nature Made Him: The Boy Raised as a Girl, medical catastrophe, search  
for identity.

Fisher, Antwone, *Finding Fish*, memoir of boy born in prison, raised in foster home.

Grealy, Lucy, *Autobiography of a Face* ( childhood memoir of a girl disfigured by cancer)  
Appearance discrimination. excellent

Hirsch, James, Hurricane: *the Miraculous Journey of Hurricane Carter*, incredible journey of an Afr/Am man who survives the justice system to make a life for himself.

LeBlanc, Adrian, *Random Family*, Puerto Rican coming of age in the Bronx, poverty, love, drugs etc.

Burk, Martha, *Cult of Power*, sex discrimination in corporate america.

Kuusisto, Stephen, *Planet of the Blind*, experience of disability in a sight oriented world

Bingham, Clara, *Class Action*, sex harrassment in the mines of Minn.

Boyle, Keven, *Arc of Justice*, race, civil rights, murder in the Jazz Age, Clarence Darrow

Eugenides, Jeffrey, *Middlesex*, fiction, sex reassignment, history, civil rights. Excellent

Hopkins, Ann, *So Ordered. Making Partner the Hard Way*, breaking the glass ceiling in corporate US

Jacobs, Harriet, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, nonfiction account of slave experience.

Johnson, Kevin, *How Did You Get to Be Mexican*, a white/brown search for identity.

Kassindja, Fauziya, *Do they Hear Me When I Cry?*, FMG & immigration rights

McCort, Frank, *TeacherMan*, Irish immigrant teaching “unteachable” kids in NYC

McCort, Frank, *Angeles Ashes*, incredible story of triumph over Irish childhood lived in Poverty. Fantastic.

Mah, Yen Adeline, *Falling Leaves*, The story of an unwanted Chinese daughter

McBride, James, *The Color of Water*, mixed race son’s memoir of his Mom

Scholinski, Daphne, *The Last Time I Wore a Dress*, memoir of a girl institutionalized for ‘male’ behavior

Lazarre, *Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness*, memoir of a white mother of black sons

Rodriguez, Richard, *Hunger of Memory*. The education of an hispanic writer in america

Kingston, Maxine Hong, *Warrior Women*, memoir of Chinese-American experience

Reyes, *Bernie Whitebear: An Urban Indian’s Quest for Justice*, filopino-american activist story, Wonderful.

Londonna Harris: A Commanche Life, life on the reservation to wife of a senator. Wonderful.

Vincent, Self-Made Man, one woman's year as a disguised man, extremely interesting!

Yoshino, Covering, the Hidden Assault on our Civil Rights, a gay asian Yale professor's life