

APUD

### Course Enhancement Rationale

Course Dept/Number: SOCI--331

Course Name: Racial and Cultural Minorities

Instructor: Tim Dunn

Gen Ed Cr:  X Yes or  No

Total Credits: 4

Indicate which enhancement(s) will be used for this course by checking the appropriate box.

Enhancement	COMAR Requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Increased course content and/or collateral readings	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.
<input type="checkbox"/> X Undergraduate Research and Information Literacy	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning and/or supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology	Supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Higher Level Critical Thinking Exercises	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning and/or supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning/Civic Engagement	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, document learning.
<input type="checkbox"/> International Education/Cultural Enrichment	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional hour(s) in class	Additional 15 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning. (Complete only questions #1 below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional hour(s) in lab or studio	Additional 30 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.

**1. Describe the enhancement(s) for this course. Discuss how this enhanced course will differ from the current 3 credit course. Especially address what makes it a more rigorous, focused and engaging learning experience.**

There are significantly more readings assigned for this course, as I have replaced a series of web readings (5 chapters) from one author (Scheafer) by instead assigning an additional textbook (Feagins) from which I assigning 13 chapters.

There is also significantly more assigned writing for this course. I have added a new assignment, Note Sheets (1-2 pages), for the 9 topics that students are not already writing assigned Readings Discussion Papers (they do RDP's for 3 topics). While more informal and shorter than an RDP, it will still force students to be more prepared and to engage more fully with the readings than previously, and should greatly aid group discussion. I am designing this assignment in response to previous student feedback and suggestions for something along these lines to hold classmates more accountable for being up to date on course materials. In addition, I have changed the Application Paper to an Application and Research Paper and increased the length from 4-6 pages to 7-8 pages. The result is that students will be required to write 61% more in terms of length (15 more pages --- there were 22-27 total pages previously [24.5 midpoint] and there will now be 32-47 [39.5 mid-point]), and more in-depth and detail on one key assignment.

The Application and Research paper emphasizes research more than the previously assigned Application Papers. Students will now have to consult 4-5 academic sources, rather than 2 sources (1 of which could be from popular press). Moreover, in requiring them to synthesize information from the larger number of

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sources, this assignment is a higher level critical thinking exercise that its predecessor, which did not require synthesis.

**2. Discuss what the faculty member will do to provide appropriate guidance and feedback for the enhancement activity.**

I will lecture on the additional readings in the classroom, as well as incorporate them into in-class exercises and guiding questions for student discussion. I will also read and grade the 9 new Note Sheet assignments that students will now be writing, on which I will provide written feedback and I will make comments to the entire class on this assignment for each topic. They will have an opportunity to improve their work based on this feedback, as well as my responses to their 3 RDP's (which I already do). Moreover, I will provide more extensive feedback to their in-class writing exercises and quizzes, which currently I provide little of.

**3. Discuss the estimated time expected for students to complete the enhancement (COMAR requires approximately 45 hours per 1 credit):**

I estimate that students will spend an additional 1 hours per week doing the additional readings for the course (15 hours over the course of the term). I estimate the students will spend an additional 2 hours per week doing the new and lengthier (in one case) writing assignments (30 hours over the course of the term).

**4. Discuss how the enhancement will be assessed.**

I will grade the numerous short new papers (and the more challenging tests I intend to write) and I will carefully monitor small group and class discussions of the longer readings. Given the students will have more material to work with and will be required to do more with it, I expect to see greater depth, detail, and critical reflection in their written work (papers, in-class exercises, note sheets, and test essay question answers) and verbal comments. Also, by providing feedback to the new Note Sheet assignments and more feedback to in-class writing exercises and quizzes, students should be able to monitor their own progress more closely and have more opportunities to improve. So, I expect to see greater improvement over the course of the semester.