

Wayland Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Contact Information

Course: SOSC 3320 VC01 – Cultural Diversity

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: Spring 1 2026

Instructor: Ms. Jasmine Davis, LMSW

WBU Email Address: jasmine.j.davis@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: N/A —Virtual Campus, by appointment only. Please email to set up meeting over Microsoft TEAMS.

Class Meeting Time and Location: WBU Online/Virtual Campus

Course Information

Catalog Description: A comparative analysis of the diverse cultural groups in the United States and their changing sociological, economical and political status.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials: Healey, J. F., & Stepnick, A. (2022). Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender (7th ed.). SAGE Publications. ISBN-10: 1071849980; ISBN-13: 9781071849989

*The textbook for this course is part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Optional Materials: American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). American Psychological Association. ISBN-10: 143383216X; ISBN-13: 9781433832161

Other readings as assigned

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Outline the unique experiences of minority groups in the United States
- Apply specific terminology from the sociology of race/ethnicity
- Identify the social factors that contribute to racial stratification and how racial stratification impacts minority group members' lives
- Identify how to appropriately resist generalizations across groups

Attendance Requirements

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](#)

- a. Generative AI tools permitted in specific context and with proper citations.
 - i. Students are allowed to use, reference, or incorporate generative AI tools into specific assignments for this course. When used, students must properly cite the generative AI tool in their submitted work.
 - ii. While there is no true substitute for direct help and instruction for your instructor, students may be allowed to use generative AI tools to provide further explanations of course content, readings, and other assignments. Any use of generative AI tools to help further explain or translate to content must be properly referenced and cited.

- iii. Specific parameters for generative AI usage are provided by the instructor.
- iv. Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Assignments:

1 – Discussion Boards – 7 discussion boards, 3 points possible each (21 points total)

The discussion boards are structured to encourage collaboration and critical engagement with peers. Each week contains one discussion prompt connected to the assigned textbook chapters. Initial posts are due no later than Thursday 11:59 PM of each week unless otherwise noted. Replies to at least two classmates are due by Sunday 11:59 PM.

For full credit, discussion responses must:

- Reference course material (summarize concepts, cite examples, or use direct quotes).
- Apply sociological terminology accurately.
- Relate content to real-world events, community issues, or personal observations.
- Initial post word count should be at least 150 words or a 3–7-minute video.
- Peer responses should be at least 50 words and be more than “I agree.”

Use APA 7th edition for in-text citations and references. Posts will be graded on both frequency (multiple days of participation) and quality (depth, analysis, and contribution to class learning).

2 – Out-of-Comfort Zone Paper or Presentation – 19 points total

This assignment requires students to attend, participate in, or research an event, activity, or experience connected to a cultural group outside of their own lived identity. The goal is to engage with new perspectives, analyze the experience through sociological concepts, and reflect on how it challenges assumptions or broad generalizations.

Paper Requirements

- Length: Minimum of 4 pages total (includes title page and reference page).
- Format: APA 7th edition; must include a title page and a reference page.
- Sources: At least 2 peer-reviewed scholarly articles related to the population or topic. Students are encouraged to use the WBU Library databases to locate appropriate sources.
- Integration: Connect your experience and research to the course textbook and materials, applying key sociological concepts and terminology (e.g., assimilation, stratification, minority status).
- Reflection: Include a personal reflection on why this activity or topic was out of your comfort zone and what you learned from the experience.
- Upload a PDF or word document via Blackboard on or before the due date. No links will be accepted.

Students may choose to complete this assignment as a presentation instead of a paper.

Presentation Requirements

- Length: 7–10 minutes
- Format: PowerPoint, Google Slides, or Canva presentation with visual support
- Sources: At least 2 peer-reviewed scholarly sources related to the population or topic
 - Students are encouraged to use the WBU Library databases to locate appropriate sources
- Integration: The presentation must connect the experience and research to the course textbook and materials, applying key sociological concepts and terminology (e.g., assimilation, stratification, minority status)
- Content:
 - Description of the event, activity, or experience
 - Sociological analysis of the experience
 - Discussion of how the experience challenged assumptions or broad generalizations
- Reflection: Include a personal reflection on why the experience was outside of your comfort zone and what you learned from the experience
- Citations:
 - In-text citations must follow APA 7th edition
 - A reference slide is required

Submission

- Presentation videos must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date
- Record presentation and upload through Yuja Video Tool in Blackboard or create a video on YouTube and include the link.

3 – Midterm Exam – 25 points total

The midterm will cover material from Chapters 1–4. The format will include objective (multiple-choice and short answer questions) and applied questions requiring explanation or analysis. The midterm assesses understanding of key terminology, historical developments, and theories.

4 – Final Exam – 35 points total

The final exam will cover material from Chapters 5–10. Like the midterm, the exam will include objective and applied questions. The final is cumulative and weighted more heavily, assessing mastery of sociological terminology, group experiences, and the ability to connect concepts to contemporary minority group relations in the United States.

Grade Distribution

- Discussion Boards – 21%
- Out-of-Comfort Zone Paper or Presentation – 19%
- Midterm Exam – 25%
- Final Exam – 35%

Total: 100%

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

The following calendar outlines weekly topics, assigned readings, and assignment deadlines. This schedule is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified

in advance of any adjustments. **ALL assignments must be submitted on or before March 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM CST.**

Week	Dates	Module Title	Readings	Assignments/Deadlines
Week 1	Jan 12-18	Introduction to Diversity and Theoretical Frameworks	Chapter 1 <i>Diversity in the United States</i> ; Chapter 2 <i>Assimilation and Pluralism</i>	Required First Assignment; Intro Discussion Board #1 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned. Out-of-Comfort Zone Paper Assigned due on March 1st @ 11:59 PM CST
Week 2	Jan 20-25	Preindustrial America and the Roots of Minority Status	Chapter 3 <i>Preindustrial American and Minority Status</i>	Discussion Board #2 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned
Week 3	Jan 26-Feb 1	Industrialization and Changing Dominant-Minority Relations	Chapter 4 <i>Industrialization and Dominant-Minority Relations</i>	Midterm Exam (covering Chapter 1-4) opening on January 28th and due by February 8th at 11:59 PM. Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned
Week 4	Feb 2-8	The Black American Experience	Chapter 5 <i>Black Americans</i>	Discussion Board #3 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Additional materials (videos,

				articles, podcasts) may be assigned Mid-term exam due February 8th @ 11:59 PM CST
Week 5	Feb 9-15	The Native American Experience	Chapter 6 <i>Native Americans</i>	Discussion Board #4 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned
Week 6	Feb 16-22	The Hispanic American Experience	Chapter 7 <i>Hispanic Americans</i>	Discussion Board #5 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned
Week 7	Feb 23-Mar 1	The Asian American Experience	Chapter 8 <i>Asian Americans</i>	Discussion Board #6 — Initial post due Thursday at 11:59 PM CST; 2 replies due Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. Out-of-Comfort Zone Paper due Sunday 3-1-25 at 11:59 PM. Final exam opens Feb 28th Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned
Week 8	Mar 2-7	Immigration, Assimilation, and the Future of Diversity in the United States	Chapter 9 <i>New Americans, Assimilation, and Old Challenges</i> ; Chapter 10 <i>Minority Groups and U.S. Society</i>	Discussion Board #7 — Initial post due Saturday at 11:59 PM CST—No peer responses due. Final Exam (covering Chapter 5-10) opening

				<p>on February 28th and due by March 7th Additional materials (videos, articles, podcasts) may be assigned</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Additional Information

Technical Difficulties

In online classes, technological difficulties may arise from time to time. If you experience issues posting or submitting work in Blackboard (for example, if your work does not appear after you upload it), it is your responsibility to contact the Virtual Campus department immediately:

VC Contact Information

- Phone: 1-866-547-9192 or 1-806-291-3540
- Email: virtualcampus@wbu.edu

Blackboard Submissions

To receive credit, all work must be uploaded within Blackboard. Do not email assignments through Blackboard unless specifically instructed to do so in the syllabus.

Late Work Policy

Late work will not be accepted unless the instructor is notified in advance of any issues. Approval of late submissions is at the discretion of the instructor and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students should communicate proactively if they anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline.