

Paper Number:
176.310

Paper Title:
Ethnicity & Identity: Contemporary Issues

Credit Value:
15 Credits

Calendar Prescription:

An examination of key sociological approaches, both historical and contemporary, to 'race' and ethnicity; an analysis of various substantive issues including language, media representations, neo-fascism and state policies with particular attention to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Pre and co requisites:
Any 200-level BA paper

Semester:
Semester 1

Campus:
Auckland (Albany)

Mode:
Internal

E-Learning Category:
S (Web Supported)

Paper Coordinator and lecturer contact details:

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Timetable:

Please see <http://publictimetable.massey.ac.nz/> for timetabling information.

Learning Outcomes:

The course will provide insights into some contemporary issues and debates in the field of ethnicity and identity. Some of these issues will be chosen to as the focus of the lectures, but there will be an opportunity for you to study others, which may be of personal or professional interest, within both tutorials and the major research essay which forms a part of this course's assessment. The course will focus on our situation in Aotearoa and, to a lesser extent, within the Pacific region. These experiences are somewhat unique and reflect

historical sequences as they have played out in our nation and region. Students from other societies will be encouraged to consider these themes within contexts with which they are familiar. However, there are also significant general benefits from studying similar processes in other locations. The benefits of a comparative, or cross-national, approach to ethnicity and identity are that we can distinguish between common consequences of social processes and those which are unique to particular locations.

This comparative approach can, for instance, allow us to identify a general set of consequences of such processes and to establish those which are unique to particular situations. Among those things which will be considered are the transformation of ethnicity and ethnic identity in post-modern society; the transformation of ethnic identity in migrant communities; the significance of ethnic intermarriage in group relations and identity; the role of the media in the production and reproduction of ethnic identity and the significance of ethnicity in social policy.

This analytical approach allows us to move toward generalisations about social phenomena and toward the formation of theories of ethnicity and identity while identifying particular factors and variables which seem to shape local realities and experiences. When we can do this, we can both draw on general theories to explain social phenomena, and can also contribute to theorising by showing how theories can, in turn, be refined on the basis of local experience.

Major topics or paper structure:

A sociological examination of factors which are transforming ethnicity and ethnic relations in contemporary society including migration, demographic trends, patterns of intermarriage, cultural politics, economic trends, state policies and media representations of ethnicity

Assessment Proportions:

100% internal

Description of assessment activities:

1, 25% essay

1, 25% essay

1, 50% research assignment

Due dates / deadlines:

The due dates for assignments will be published on the course webCT site at the start of the semester.

Final examination:

There will be no final examination

Penalties:

TBA

Assignment turnaround:
2 Weeks

Any specific requirements for passing the paper:
None

Principal Textbook:
TBA

Course Readings:

Some readings referred to in lectures are held in a file in the library and are on reserve. Others will be sent to you throughout the course as either PDF files or as links to articles held in the Massey Library collection.