

SOC 286/Spring 2013

First Paper Assignment: Family History Paper

Due March 5

50 points

This paper asks you to take the theoretical concepts of ethnicity, race, and migration and the notions about the history of race and ethnicity that we will develop through the course and apply them to your own family story. You should provide a narration of how you came to be in Illinois that stretches back at least four generations. While I do not need specific genealogical information, you should provide a general sense of where your family comes from and how you got to where you are today. In this narration, relying on lecture notes and course readings, you should discuss changing conceptions of race and ethnicity that have affected your family. These changes may be changes that your family faced when migrating across national or state boundaries, or they may be general cultural shifts. You should conclude by explaining how the history of your family and the cultural ideas around race, ethnicity, and/or migration have affected how you view yourself in the 21st century.

If you feel uncomfortable disclosing this information about yourself, you are welcome to interview a friend or family member to write the paper. Just clearly indicate at the top of your paper that you have chosen to use an interview.

The mechanics:

- Your paper should be 4-6 pages long.
- Must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.
- Include in-text citations and a reference page when appropriate (this means your reference page should have an APA formatted entry for the article, the textbook, and any other references you use). You should follow APA format. More information on APA format can be found at the [OWL @ Purdue](#).
- All written work is due on Instructure Canvas by the start of class on the day it is due. No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Double-check to make sure your work uploads correctly.

Assignment adopted from:

Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2007. "Racial and Ethnic Relations." Pp. 324-327 in *Teaching Race and Ethnic Relations*, edited by D. Cunnigen. 5th ed. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.