Course Description
This course is an introduction to theories and empirical work on social identities, focusing in particular on definitions and measurement. The course has three main goals: First, we will examine various definitions of social identities and different types of identities (e.g. ethnicity, race, nationality, gender, class, and religion). We will also consider more structural approaches to identity. Second, we will look at techniques and strategies that have been developed to measure identities (content and discourse analysis, surveys and experiments, interviews and ethnography, censuses, and expert datasets). Third, we will examine empirical works on identities from a variety of geographical areas and methodological perspectives.

This course will be based on student-centered discussion rather than lectures. Reading is essential for full participation in discussions and students will be asked to explain concepts from the readings in class. In addition, through short assignments students will practice a variety of techniques for measuring identity. Finally, students will write an original research paper in which they will consider a definition of a social identity and then collect original data related to that identity using one of the techniques covered in the class.

Essential learning outcomes:
This course will address several "essential learning outcomes" of the LEAP initiative (http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm). Students’ knowledge of human cultures will be enhanced by their exploration of identity, politics, and society in other countries. The course assignments are aimed at developing intellectual and practical skills, including analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication. Finally, the connection between the methodological material and empirical work in the texts across countries is aimed at achieving an integrated learning experience.

Summary of course requirements and grading (see details on pp. 9-11)
Reading, preparation, and participation in discussions (2.5% each week): 30%
Four measurement assignments (7.5% each) 30%
Final paper and in-class presentation 40%
Total: 100%

Grades will be posted on Learn@UW each week. Failure in any of the three course components will result in failure in the course overall.
Readings:

Required Books (in order of appearance on syllabus):


Recommended:


These books also will be on reserve at the Helen C. White College Library.

Other Readings:

• All readings that are not from the required books will be available on the Learn@UW site, or at another website.

Disability accommodations:

People with disabilities will be fully included in this course. Please inform me if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to participate fully. Confidentiality of the shared information will be strictly maintained. Certain accommodations may require the assistance of the McBurney Disability Office on campus. The McBurney Disability Resource Center can be reached at (608) 263-2741 or via email at mcburney@odos.wisc.edu.
Part I, Definitions and Measurement

Week 1, Thursday, Sept. 4: Introduction to the course: Identity as a variable

Week 2, Thursday, Sept. 11
Defining social identities


Recommended:


Week 3, Thursday, Sept. 18
Identities in hierarchies and institutions: Gender, Class, Race


  o Elliot B. Weininger. "Chapter 4: Foundations of Bourdieu’s class analysis." 82-118.


Recommended:
Part II: Measurement Techniques

Week 4, Thursday, Sept. 25
Measurement using texts: Content and Discourse Analysis


- Wilson, Steven and Yoshiko Herrera. 2014. Content Analysis Review. Unpublished manuscript.

Recommended:


Content analysis websites:
  - Profiler Plus: [http://socialscience.net/tech/ProfilerPlus.aspx](http://socialscience.net/tech/ProfilerPlus.aspx)

Content analysis summary websites:
  - Contentanalysis.de: [http://www.content-analysis.de/software/quantitative-analysis](http://www.content-analysis.de/software/quantitative-analysis)
  - Kim Neuendorf’s site: [http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/cpuca/ccap.htm](http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/cpuca/ccap.htm)
  - Neuendorf, Kim. Content analysis syllabus: [http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/c63309/](http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/c63309/)
  - Skalski, Paul. Power point presentation on interactive media content analysis: [http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/c63309/Interactive09.ppt](http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/c63309/Interactive09.ppt)

Content analysis assignment due on Monday 9/29, noon
Week 5, Thursday, Oct. 2
Measurement: Surveys and Experiments

  o Taeku Lee. "Chapter 4: Between Social Theory and Social Science Practice: Toward a New Approach to the Survey Measurement of ‘Race’." 113-144.


Recommended:


• General survey resources
  o Survey methods website: [http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~palmquis/courses/survey.html](http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~palmquis/courses/survey.html)

• Survey services
  o Survey Monkey: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/TakeATour.aspx](http://www.surveymonkey.com/TakeATour.aspx)
  o Forms under Google Documents: [https://docs.google.com/forms](https://docs.google.com/forms)
  o Qualtrics (hosted by UW—Madison): [http://survey.wisc.edu](http://survey.wisc.edu)

Survey assignment due on Monday 10/6, noon
Week 6, Thursday, Oct. 9
Measurement: Interviews and Ethnography


Recommended:


Interview assignment due on Monday 10/13, noon.

Week 7, Thursday, Oct. 16
Definitions and Measurement: Censuses


Week 8, Thursday, Oct. 23
Expert datasets and techniques

- "The Composition of Religious and Ethnic Groups (CREG) Project." White paper, Cline Center for Democracy, October 2012
Recommended:


**Expert Database assignment due Monday 10/27, noon.**

**Part III: Case Studies**

**Week 9, Thursday, Oct. 30**

**Ethnicity and Ethnic Politics**


Recommended:


**Final Paper Plan due Monday, 11/3, noon**

**Week 10, Thursday, Nov. 6**

**Case Studies: National Identity and Nationalism**


Recommended:

Week 11, Thursday, Nov. 13
Case Studies: Religion


Recommended

Week 12, No meeting on Nov. 20; class will be moved to different day that week TBA.
Case Studies: Gender


Thursday, Nov. 27: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving holiday)

Week 13, Thursday, Dec. 4
Case Studies: Class


Recommended:

Final Paper due Wednesday, December 10, noon

Week 14, Thursday, Dec. 11:
Discussion of Student Papers

- No assigned readings
Course Requirement Details

1. Reading, Preparation, and Participation:
   - This is a discussion-based class and active participation is essential. Mere attendance is not full participation. Active participation means being prepared by doing the reading and thinking about the material so that you can ask and answer questions related to the course material.
   - All students are expected to do all readings for each class and to bring the readings to class in order to aid in discussion.
   - *I will call on a few students during each class meeting; you should be prepared to answer questions about each of the assigned readings.*
   - Students are expected to attend for the full class period; arriving late or leaving the room during class will result in a lowered participation grade for the day.
   - It is fine to use a tablet or laptop in class to take notes, but doing other work or online activity unrelated to the course during class will result in a lowered participation grade for the day.
   - Absences will only be excused due to religious conflicts or medical issues; contact me as soon as possible should a medical issue or religious conflict arise.
   - The grading scheme for reading and discussion participation is:
     - **A** = Attended and actively participated, seemed in command of readings and material; able to explain concepts to the class
     - **B** = Attended and spoke, demonstrating adequate engagement with the readings, but without full understanding of the course material
     - **C** = Attended but did not speak, did not show evidence of having done the readings, or was engaged in non-course-related activities online
     - **F** = Did not attend
   
   Note that there is no "D" reflecting the large gap between attending and not attending.
2. Measurement assignments

There will be four short measurement assignments during Part II of the course.

1. **Content Analysis:** Students should choose a source of digitized text, and choose from one of the publicly available content analysis websites, and then analyze some kind of identity-related content in the text. Due: **Mon. 9/29, noon**.

2. **Survey:** Students should design and implement a survey that measures some aspect or type of identity. The survey should contain a minimum of 5 questions, and should be completed by at least 10 respondents. It may contain an experiment, but this is not required. Due: **Mon. 10/6, noon**.

3. **Interviews:** Students should design and carry out interviews or a micro-ethnography (one full day embedded with a group or individual from a group). At least two people should be interviewed or one person or group should be the focus of the ethnography. Due **Mon. 10/13, noon**.

In each of the three assignments above, there should be a discussion paper of no more than 2 single-spaced pages, excluding appendix, which includes the following:

   a) Explanation of what kind of identity content you are trying to measure
   b) Description of the data sources or pool of respondents
   c) Explanation of the procedure or methods for getting at the identity content
   d) Discussion of the results and in what ways the measurement exercise was or was not successful
   e) The actual coding rules used in content analysis and/or the survey or interview instrument should be included in an appendix.

4. **Expert Datasets:** Students should choose a country and an identity-based construct (e.g. "ethnic diversity," "gender-based inequality," "class polarization," "religious diversity," etc.). Find three different datasets that measure the same form of identity content in one country. Read the coding rules for each dataset, evaluate how well the data match these rules and provide a critique of how well the different datasets evaluate the construct which they are measuring. Write up analysis in two single-spaced pages. Due **Mon. 10/27, noon**.

The grading scheme for measurement assignments is:

- **A** = Well-planned and executed measurement exercise, which is well-connected to course readings, and which produces interesting findings, with excellent discussion paper
- **AB** = Well-planned and executed measurement exercise, demonstrating adequate engagement with the readings, with good discussion paper
- **B** = Measurement exercise that is poorly planned or executed, but is engaged with techniques discussed in readings, with satisfactory discussion paper
- **C** = Measurement exercise that is poorly planned or executed and unconnected to course readings, with minimally satisfactory discussion paper
- **F** = Did not turn in assignment

- Late papers will be marked down one grade if not posted by noon on Monday, two grades down if not posted by noon on Tuesday.
- Papers with a significant number of grammatical or spelling errors will be marked down one grade. Make sure to proofread.
3. Final Paper

The final paper for this course will require original data collection and research based on the measurement techniques discussed and practiced in the course. The final paper must include extensive discussion of readings from at least two different weeks in the course, but is otherwise open in terms of topic choice. You are strongly encouraged to come to my office hours in order to discuss the research plan and the paper.

- The paper assignment will be divided into two parts: a plan and the final paper. For all parts of the paper, include:
  - Your name on every document you turn in, in the text and in the electronic file title (e.g. "Obama_Paper.pdf" not "Paper.pdf")
  - Title describing the paper on the plan and the final paper
  - Use 12-point font, 1-inch margins
  - All parts of paper should be posted as a PDF on Learn@UW

Due dates for parts of the research paper and requirements:

- **Monday, Nov. 3, noon**, Plan due. This research plan should have four numbered parts consisting of at least one paragraph. The entire plan should be no longer than 2 single-spaced pages.
  1. Paragraph describing the topic and research question, including the kind or type of identity you are interested in measuring, and the kind of question (dependent variable) related to that identity that are you planning to focus on.
  2. Paragraph describing the particular definition of social identity, taken from the course readings, which you plan to use in your paper.
  3. Paragraph describing the methodology, based on the course readings and measurement exercises, that you plan to employ.
  4. Paragraph describing the main type of data sources that you plan to use, and which of the course readings you plan to use

- **Wednesday, Dec. 10, at noon**, final paper due.
  - Approximately 25 double-spaced pages, excluding citations and appendices
  - Include your name, date, a title, page numbers

- **Dec. 11**, paper presentations and discussion of papers in class.
  - Papers will be arranged into panels of 3-4 papers.
  - All students will give a 5-minute presentation based on their papers.
  - No slides necessary.