



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 22
Issue 4 December

Article 16

December 1995

Multicultural Clients: A Professional Handbook for Health Care Providers and Social Workers. Sybil M. Lassiter.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Clinical and Medical Social Work Commons, and the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

(1995) "*Multicultural Clients: A Professional Handbook for Health Care Providers and Social Workers.* Sybil M. Lassiter.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 4 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol22/iss4/16>

This Book Note is brought to you by the Western Michigan University School of Social Work. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

Sybil M. Lassiter, *Multicultural Clients: A Professional Handbook for Health Care Providers and Social Workers*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. \$65.00 hardcover.

The book's author, who is a professor of nursing, notes that there are more than 100 different ethnic groups in the United States today. By the middle of the next century, citizens of European descent will be in a minority. She points out that, as a result of the 'browning of America', it is imperative that health care personnel and social workers have a sound knowledge of the different cultures and religions that comprise the country's increasingly diverse multicultural population.

The book is intended to serve as guide to these cultures. Apart from a general introduction, it contains fifteen chapters dealing with a wide range of ethnic groups. These include Americans of African, Arab, Haitian, Latin-American and Asian descent as well as as European groups such as German, Italian and Irish Americans. A chapter on Jewish Americans is also provided. However, there is no chapter on Native Americans.

Each chapter follows a generally standardized format and contains sections dealing with the demographics of each ethnic group, language, family patterns, child rearing, socialization and religious beliefs. Because the book has been written primarily for health care professionals, each chapter also contains information on disease patterns, dietary habits, folk medicine and other culturally based health beliefs and practices.

This is not a sophisticated book about multiculturalism in the United States but, as a practical guide, it will be of use to health care and human service workers who come into daily contact with the nation's many ethnic minorities. It is easy to read and presented in a straightforward way.

Stanford M. Lyman, *Color, Culture, Civilization: Race and Minority Issues in American Society*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1994. \$44.95 hardcover.

Stanford Lyman is widely respected for his incisive sociological analyses of race relations in the United States today. Utilizing a sociological perspective, he has interpreted many aspects of color and culture in the country. He has also analyzed the writings of other social scientists who have written on race and ethnic issues