

SOC105:  
*Blacks in America*  
Bellevue College  
Spring Term 2014

Instructor: Eric C. Davis

[eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu)

Phone: 425-564-5721 Office: A100F

Office Hours M-Th 2:20-2:50pm or by appt

**Class meeting times: MW 12:30-2:40, Room C-164**

**Course Catalog Description:**

*Explore the social and cultural background of Blacks in America. Themes include music and popular culture, activism, politics, and/or social change.*

**Classroom Theme/Pedagogical Approach:**

Sociologists study a broad range of topics--some of which includes provocative content and adult themes. While every attempt will be made to keep things PG-13, please know that there will be times where R-rated content (language, images, etc.) is necessary to examine course topics within an academic context. SOC 105 will feature hip-hop music, stand-up comedy and several films that have strong language. Students will not be penalized for excusing themselves from content they find objectionable or difficult to watch, see, discuss or listen to. That being said, students who excuse themselves are responsible for any course material they miss as a result of choosing not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or classroom climate, feel free to speak with me about it at any time. I am not punitive, I am here to support you. Come talk to me during office hours or email me.

**Required Textbooks:**

- Hip Hop Wars*. Tricia Rose. Basic Books, 2008
- Post Black*. Ytasha Womack. Lawrence Hill Books, 2010.

**Readings:**

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed. Please be prepared to discuss assigned readings for a given week as soon as we return to class from the preceding weekend.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Week 1</b>	<i>Welcome and Introductions</i> <i>Blackness: Obama; Authenticity</i> <i>Social History: How did we get here?</i>	Course Syllabus Rose, Preface; Intro “Space Traders” reading
<b>Week 2</b>	<i>Sociology and Socialization in Black</i> <i>Social Problems in Black America</i>	Chapters 1 and 3 <i>Guest Speaker: Donald Watts</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	<i>Black Culture and Values</i> <i>American Culture and Values</i>	Rose, Chapters 2 and 4 Womack, Chapter 6 “Year of the Bull”
<b>Week 4</b>	<i>Gender inequality: sexism, and</i> <i>female identity in the age of video girl</i>	Rose, Chapters 5, 7, and 8 Womack, Chapter 9 “Beyond Beats and Rhymes”
<b>Week 5</b>	<i>Black Authenticity</i> <i>Progressive Futures in Hip Hop</i>	Rose, Chapters 6, 9 and 10 Rose, Chapters 11, 12 and 13
<b>Week 6</b>	<i>What does it mean to be Black?</i> <i>Generation Gaps in Black America</i>	Womack, Forward by Derek Dingle Womack, Intro, Chapter 1
<b>Week 7</b>	<i>Diversity in Black America, part 1</i> <i>Identity Development</i>	Womack, Chapters 2 and 3 “Good Hair”
<b>Week 8</b>	<i>Diversity in Black America, part 2</i> <i>Social Structures; Social Class</i>	Womack, Chapters 4 and 5 “Soul Food Junkies”
<b>Week 9</b>	<i>Entrepreneurs and Economics</i>	Womack, Chapters 7 and 8
<b>Week 10</b>	<i>Obama and Authenticity Revisited</i>	Womack, Chapter 10

### **Learning Outcomes:**

*The successful student will be able to:*

- 1) Understand the concepts of “race” and “ethnicity” from a sociological perspective;
- 2) Explain the general social, economic, and political conditions of Blacks in the United States, understand how those conditions compare to other racial/ethnic groups, and articulate how those conditions have changed over time;
- 3) Identify key contributions of Blacks to American social, political, and cultural life;
- 4) Understand the impacts of racial prejudice and discrimination on the daily lived experiences of Black Americans;
- 5) Explain how race, class, and gender work together as a matrix of inequality;
- 6) Distinguish between objectivity and subjectivity and between opinion and fact;
- 7) Explain how social institutions impact the individual lives of Black Americans;
- 8) Describe the many social forces that work together to maintain racial stratification;
- 9) Provide examples of concrete actions that can reduce interpersonal and institutional racism;
- 10) Articulate his/her own position within the racial stratification system of the United States; and
- 11) Understand perspectives different from one’s own.

### **General Rules and Expectations:**

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present.
- Complete the readings no later than the *start* of the week assigned.
- Extra credit opportunities available by request. See me...
- Properly manage your laptop, netbook, cell phone and/or PDA.
- Consistently demonstrate respect and proper classroom behavior. Disrespectful behavior will result in you being asked to leave.
- Critical thinking is expected. Informed opinion is the standard we seek.
- Questions are welcome and encouraged. Don’t be afraid to ask for help.

## Course Requirements:

### Attendance/Participation. 100 points.

*Overall engagement in the class discussions, activities, debates, small group work, etc.*  
Assessed weekly

### Weekly Readings. 200 points.

*Questions related to the weekly reading assignments will be posted on CANVAS.  
Students are required to upload their completed answers by the due date.*  
Due weekly

### Film Analysis Papers: 50 points each.

*After screening the documentary films listed below, students are required to submit a 2-3 page analysis of each. Specific questions will be provided.*

“Year of the Bulls”

“Beyond Beats and Rhymes”

“Good Hair”

“Soul Food Junkies”

Due Dates and details are available on CANVAS.

## GRADING

There are 500 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

475+pts = (4.0) A	360+pts = (2.3) C+	>280pts= (0.0) Fail
450+pts = (3.7) A-	345+pts = (2.0) C	
425+pts = (3.3) B+	325+pts = (1.7) C-	
400+pts = (3.0) B	300+pts = (1.3) D+	
375+pts = (2.7) B-	280+pts = (1.0) D	

**Bellevue College Email:**

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

**Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\***

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.

**Incomplete**

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

**F Grade**

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

**Final Examination Schedule**

There is no Final Exam scheduled for Sociology 105. The last class meeting day is 6/16/14

**Withdrawal From Class**

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### **Hardship Withdrawal**

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### **Distribution of Grades**

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

## **NOTES:**