

CES 100: Race in the U.S. (Summer 2015)

(Item Number: 5600-Section: A)

**INSTRUCTOR: Sayumi Irej, Ph.D.**

**OFFICE PHONE: (425) 564-2354**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS: sirey@bellevuecollege.edu**

**OFFICE: D104 (Inside of Faculty Commons)**

If you have any questions or concerns, come early and do not hesitate to ask.

Type "CES 100" and your name under the subject to make sure I will get your e-mail. In other words, I will not guarantee reply to e-mails on time, if the above information is not included.

I am generally easier to reach via e-mail than by telephone.

## Course Information:

Course Outcomes:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Read critically, actively and reflectively. Support their own conclusions about the validity of the assumptions and ideas they have encountered in the assigned readings.
- Demonstrate analysis through rhetorical techniques.
- Shape and re-shape contemporary concepts of U.S. society, through the socio-historical, socio-political contexts in which race and ethnicity are used.

More about the Course:

Based on racial identity models introduced by J. E. Helms and B. D. Tatum, the class will examine contemporary social, political, and economic issues that various minority groups face in relation to the majority group, whites.

During the post-WWII era, numerous inspired minority cultures living on the American landscape moved from defeating fascism abroad to battling against discrimination and racism at home. This course examines several core issues that blossomed from minority groups eager to make a difference in a new multicultural democracy.

Helms and Tatum theorize that racial identity is defined by how one sees him/herself through experience and communicates with others in a social context. This signifies one's perception and interaction with others. By learning several identity models at the beginning of the class, you will learn to communicate intelligently and empathetically with a diverse range of peers.

During the course, you will practice and become fluent with the identity models through class discussion, hands-on activities, and lectures. You are expected gradually to apply and correctly use terms, such as race, ethnicity, nationality, model minority, assimilation, prejudice, microaggressions, civil rights, white privilege, and social justice during class discussions. You will also identify and critically analyze such terms in the context of contemporary U.S. history based on the required readings (see the list of required readings on Canvas). You will reflect on what you learn for each lecture and worksheets as part of your grade. Throughout the course, you will identify the need for inclusiveness in U.S. society by finding similarities and differences among ethnic groups in America.

You will also learn basic library research skills in order to translate your academic skills into other disciplines. You will learn to use various information sources (e.g., databases, reference books, and audiovisuals) to validate your points of view during the final group presentation.

## MY PHILOSOPHY:

An inclusive thinker is a person who carefully listens to others and values differences as a welcome learning device. I would like you to be inclusive thinkers. An inclusive thinker understands that there is more than one way to solve social problems and consciously pays attention to other voices, both critically (methodologically) and empathetically. The inclusive thinker, thus, welcomes challenges and diversity as a positive life experience and puts effort towards applying what she/he learns into her/his daily activities. The inclusive thinker also understands that effective learning is a life long journey and requires continuous inter/intra personal communication.

In the ever-changing American society, I also would hope for you to become critical thinkers who see yourselves as active participants for social justice for all. Throughout this course, you will witness and experience how each one of us is interrelated. In order to do so, I would like you to grasp fundamental social, racial, and gender theories in America, so that you have a solid base on which to articulate your ideas in an intellectual manner. In order to achieve the above goals, this class will focus on hands-

on research tools, such as databases, academic journals, and the Internet as well as guest speakers who are expert in their fields. Such information and research skills shall help identify reliable yet up-to-date information in American society, as well as historically debated issues. Needless to say, having basic research skills will enhance your articulation of your topics of interests, and shall further aid you to deal with information and conflicts (note: conflicts are not necessarily bad thing!) in a critical manner.

### **Connecting sustainability to this class:**

Malcolm X articulated in his autobiography, "No one will know who we are until we know who we are!" I believe your own identities, histories, stories/legacies, and values are all interconnected. In this class, tackling about your own identities from different angles is a significant part of learning. When you begin to learn more about your own values and cultural legacies, you will honor who you are and your communities, and you will begin to find ways to be an active participant and a leader in the U.S. society. Interestingly, while you discover yourself more, you will find out how each one of us are interconnected, and how our legacies in the past still shape who we are. By knowing who you are, you also begin to question various inequalities in this society. \

### **Affirmation of Inclusion:**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

### **Religious Holidays:**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

## College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#).

### REQUIRED READINGS:

**(Note: Required means “required”!)**

You will find all required readings on your Canvas site.

### METHODOLOGY:

Class time will be divided into lecture (guest speakers), demonstration, hands-one exercises, discussions, small group activities, presentations, and research activities.

### GRADING:

| Project/Assignments   | Points     |
|---|------------|
| In Class Participation: Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture | 55         |
| Who am I paper  | 5          |
| Worksheet (2)   | 20         |
| Midterm exam  | 10         |
| Final Reflective Paper  | 10         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>100</b> |

The overall course grade will be based on the following scale:

|         |            |         |           |
|---------|------------|---------|-----------|
| A       | 93% - 100% | C plus  | 77% - 78% |
| A minus | 89% - 92%  | C       | 73% - 76% |
| B plus  | 87% - 88%  | C minus | 69% - 72% |
| B       | 83% - 86%  | D plus  | 67% - 68% |
| B minus | 79% - 82%  | D       | 63% - 66% |
|         |            | F       | below 63% |

## ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is a very crucial part of your participation, as we will be learning together as a community. Since there are group activities and discussion throughout the course, your participation will be important for you and your peers. If you happen to miss a class one day, you also might miss a crucial moment in our discussion that might help you understand the materials. In other words, it will be hard for you to make up such moments. I also expect you to come to class on time, as being late for class shows disrespect to your classmates.

If you have a special circumstance and are going to be absent, e-mail or call me. Do not ask me whether you have missed "something important" or not. It is your responsibility to get notes from your classmates and submit assignments on time.

## GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION:

- Always read and bring materials assigned to you each week and prepare yourself with questions for discussion.
- Express and share your ideas in class as well as listening attentively and empathetically to your peers comes hand in hand.

- Most of the time, your peers will appreciate your asking questions in class because the question is probably something that I have not clearly explained, or simply a point of view that others did not think of. Not everyone thinks the same way, and I encourage you to ask questions and challenge me, as that is a part of learning as a community.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

### (2 Essays & 2 Worksheets)

Your assignments are designed to provide hands-on practice to help you become an effective researcher. Assignments will be distributed in class, and you are responsible for getting them if you miss a class. Late assignments will be accepted no later than one week following their due date. However, for every late day, 10% of your grade will be taken off. All assignments need to be typed or word-processed, unless otherwise specified.

### Worksheets

Please follow the instruction on the worksheets.

### Final Reflection Paper (10)

At the beginning of the quarter, you wrote “who am I?” paper. The purpose of the paper was to share with me a little bit about yourself. For the final paper, I would like you to *expand and reflect* on what you have learned about yourself this quarter. In addition, the final paper **should incorporate some academic materials** you have researched/studied in class.

Criteria:

1. Write at least 4-5 pages and a references page, double spaced; the paper must have proper APA citations.
2. You will incorporate **at least four variety of sources as references:**
  1. Films we watched in class
  2. At least one peer-reviewed (academic) journal
  3. At least one article (required readings) from the class

4. Guest speakers
5. Interviews or social media sites (optional)
6. Other (please talk with me first)

Suggested themes:

family, racial/ethnic and/or gender identity, intersections, education, belief/values, leadership, race, class, and gender, stereotypes, sports, affirmative action, microaggressions, civil rights, literature & arts, languages, music, entertainment, history, communities, health, or any ideas you have been pondering.

#### CLASS ETIQUETTE:

- Cellular phones are prohibited during the class hours. If you have any special circumstance to have it on, make sure to talk with me first.
- You may find some topics to be offensive, but remember, you are here to learn.
- Treat your peers with respect and have an ear ready to listen to opinions that are different from yours. It is all right to disagree with someone, but do it with empathy.
- Being ignorant and being intentionally insensitive are different. I tolerate the first, but not the second.
- I do not have all the answers or solutions, but I am here to guide a collegial and stimulating class for you. You are also responsible for being an active participant in class, such as through discussions and group activities.
- I do not read your mind. If I do not make myself clear, or if you have a question, be sure to ask me during or after class.
- If you can, try to have a sense of humor. Having a sense of humor lets you be an objective thinker and a better communicator.
- You are expected to follow the students' rules of conduct from the Student Handbook as a member of the BCC learning community.

#### **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity**

- Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication 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 Success for

investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code](#)

### *Important Links*

#### **Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC**

- 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: [Create Email](#)
- 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 [Technology Help Desk](#)

#### **Help with Canvas**

The following places are helpful for [Instructors](#) or [Students](#) .

#### **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

- The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.
- 
- If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.
- 
- If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.
- The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information into our program and other helpful links.



## **Accessibility**

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.