

**Popular Culture: Race
Power and Religion
CES 286, Winter 2015
11:30-12:20 Daily**

Instructor: Ron Holland, MA
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Course Introduction:

Analyzes various forms of contemporary popular culture and its expression in mass media. Specific topics may include western and romance novels, consumerism, advertising, gender images, folklore, film, and music. Previously AMST 286.

Required Texts:

- Blum, Edward and Paul Harvey. The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America. University of North Carolina Press. September 21, 2012.
- Hayley, Alex. The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley. Ballantine Books; Reissue edition. October 12, 1987.

Learning Atmosphere:

I believe that students learn best when they are actively involved in the teaching and learning process. Thus, this is an active and interactive course where you will often learn by doing inside the classroom. You are expected to observe the world, read, write, discuss, and participate in all class sessions. Every time you make a comment or ask a question, you teach something to the rest of us. Because of this approach, most assignments will be done in class; usually one weekly reading (typically no more than 10 to 20 pages) assignment will be done for homework. No other homework assignments will be expected.

A note about course content: Discussions about provocative materials may take place in class. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will be framed in an academic context. Topics run the gamut in cultural and ethnic studies and at times there may be material that makes people uncomfortable. Keep in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning. You may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to watch, see, discuss, or listen to. You are free to leave the room at any time, but you are responsible for the material you did not acquire.

Learning and Course Outcomes:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of their own previously-held perspectives on the theme and explain how those perspectives may have changed.
- Demonstrate an understanding of trends in American thought and attitude regarding the theme.
- Discuss, orally or in writing, the theme showing the interrelation of historical events, literary works and social changes.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information from various sources/media and communicate that insight effectively.

General Education Outcomes:

This course's General Education ratings are: 2 in Critical Thinking, 2 in Reading, 1 in Writing, 1 in Listening and Speaking, 2 in Historical and Intellectual Perspectives, and 3 in Cultural Diversity.

General Course Rules and Expectations:

1. **Attendance:** Attend all class meetings and come to class on time. Your presence in class is required to do the assignments and activities. If you miss class, please connect with your colleagues/CANVAS to find out what you missed.
2. I highly recommend that you get the names and contact information of one or two of your classmates so you can contact them for any assignments or notes you may have missed while absent.
3. **Preparation:** You should come to class having done the assigned weekly reading and you should always bring the proper supplies, including notes and assigned readings with you daily.
4. **Late Work:** I believe that one of the major lessons students take away from college is the importance of meeting deadlines. As a result, **no late work will be accepted** unless you have had it approved by me BEFORE the due date. Late work will receive a zero grade.
5. **Contribution:** Learning about each other's experiences and perspectives is an integral part of the learning process in this course. I believe that you will learn a lot about yourself and your classmates. Therefore, you are expected to be an active participant in our learning environment.
6. An active participant can include contributing to discussions, but can also mean getting to class on time, taking notes, listening to your peers, and coming to class prepared. You should do your best to contribute to class discussions and activities.
7. **Classroom Etiquette:** All electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times. This includes cell phones, blackberries, laptops, i-pods/mp3 players, etc. If you need a laptop to take notes, I will need verification. All texting devices should be placed in your bag for the duration of the class. Please note that that texting, excessive talking, or other disruptive behavior is not only disrespectful to me, it is also disrespectful to the people around you. Your participation grade will be affected and lowered by these types of behaviors.
8. **Respect:** I expect that your behavior in class be respectful. Learning about diverse experiences is central to this course, so it is of the utmost importance that you respect your classmates' experiences, differences, and opinions. In order for us to learn from each other, we have to allow each other to make mistakes and to offer unpopular positions for debate. This is a college classroom and as such, I expect students to behave as adults. I do not tolerate excessive talking or whispering, consistent late arrivals, or early departures. *Students who are disrespectful to their classmates or the instructor will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent until arrangements are made with the instructor to return to class and will result in your participation credit lowering.*
9. **Plagiarism:** Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. This is a serious offense so do not do it! If you cheat/plagiarize, you fail.

Bellevue College's Rules and Regulations:

1. **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").
2. **F Grade:** Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."
3. **Final Examination Schedule:** The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.
4. **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.

5. **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.
6. **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. 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.

Students with Disabilities:

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.

The DRC office is temporarily located in the Library Media Center or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498.

Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Grading:

Grades are based on **four factors**. (1) Learning Exhibitions, (2) Weekly Group Discussions, (3) Group Project, (4) Final Paper. Each of these elements is awarded a specific number of points:

Weekly Learning Exhibitions (10 at 10 points/each)	100 points
Weekly Class Discussions (10 at 0 points/each)	100 points
Weekly Group Assignments (10 at 10 points/each)	0 points
Final Group Project (1 at 100 points)	100 points
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TOTAL	300 points

Description of the 4 Grading Components:

1. **Learning Exhibitions (10 at 10 points each):** Each week, you will reflect on what you've learned. Using your notes, you will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
2. **Weekly Discussions (0 at 0 points each):** Each week, we will discuss questions about the chapter. You must contribute to these discussions.
3. **Weekly Group Assignments (10 at 10 points each):** Each week you will complete activities that require you to interact with the material you read as a discussion leader, literary luminary, or vocabulary enhancer.
4. **Group Presentation: (1 at 100 points):** In groups, you will develop a project that signifies how a single narrative around race, power, and religion has been used to subjugate people of color. Also, you will explain how multiple narratives has/can be used to combat subjugating messaging.

**** General Guidelines for All Written Work ****

All papers or written work will be done in class, but remember, you must always give proper credit to the texts from which you draw and formulate your ideas. Student information (name, assignment title, class) is single-spaced, at the top left-hand side of the page. Do not put extra spaces between paragraphs and paragraphs contain no less than four sentences. Movie titles, article titles, song titles, etc. are "in quotation marks." Quotes inside of a quotation use 'single quotation marks.' Papers should be written from an academic perspective – so no colloquial language please! Additionally, do not worry about spelling!

Instructor Notes:

If at any point throughout the quarter you are confused or unclear about the expectations of the course, course material, a grade you received, or any other matters, I strongly encourage you to come talk with me early. It is my goal that all students succeed in this course; but, I can only help you if you meet me half way.

Furthermore, if you are having personal problems or other issues going on outside of school, please let me know. I recognize that we all have lives outside of school, and am very willing to work with students, but I can only do so if I know there is a problem.

Syllabus

You should be looking at your syllabus on a daily basis so you know what is expected of you in class.

You are to have read the readings assigned for the current day by the time you arrive in class!

****Though I will try to remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes. These will be announced in advance in class. ****