

# **Sociology 101**

## **Intro to Sociology**

### **Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** Nicholas Russ, M.A History, M.A African American Studies

**Office Hours** Thursday 11.30-12:30 D 200 F

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### **Course Description**

In this Intro to Sociology class we will examine concepts and theoretical frameworks that govern our current systems. We will examine concepts such as capitalism, political ideologies, and constructs of religion, race, culture, gender, class and inequality. By examining these constructs, we will better understand systems of hierarchy, stratification and communal regulations that impact our daily lives. Seeking to understand and question our own positionality and how our own multi-layered identities help us view the world in regards to pollution, Aids epidemic, poverty, political corruption so we can then begin the process of becoming active participants in the process of change.

We will be using the **required texts** in connection with outside articles and other educational tools to create an academic framework that allows us to question. Questioning is fundamental in the process of learning therefore, we must begin to question the ways of the world if we are ever going to change them.

### **Required Texts**

Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community, *Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White (2006)*

Ishmael: An adventure of the mind and spirit, *Quinn, Daniel (1991)*

***Books are now available at the Campus Bookstore***

### **What is expected of you?**

In this class I am looking for you to challenge yourself and display through assigned writings, quizzes and group presentations that you're wrestling with the course material. You're ultimate success in this class is contingent on your ability to engage with the material and your classmates.

### **Assignments**

**Opinion Papers / 60 points**

There will be 3 opinion papers, worth 20 points each, on important sociological questions that will be assigned at the beginning of the week. This assignment will be two pages long, double-spaced and will be collected on the following Monday.

**Quizzes /40 points**

There will be 4 quizzes, all worth 10 points, over the course readings.

**Book Review/ 30 points**

You will be required to write a book review on the book Ishmael. The book review will be three pages in length. A handout will be distributed during week 4.

**Group Presentation /50 points**

During week six you will sign up for group presentations (max 5 people). You will choose from a list of sociologist and then create a PowerPoint Presentation. Details for this assignment will be given throughout the quarter.

**Participation**

It is imperative that you recognize that you are required to do more than attend. I expect students to engage and be active in the creation of a strong intellectual community. Being a passive participant will not be tolerated.

**Grading Breakdown**

Your grade will be determined by how many points you earn divided how many points are possible. Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements. Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements.

**Plagiarism**

This class is guided by the principal of academic honesty. Be honest with yourself and do not cheat. Instructors have access to commercial software that detects plagiarism. There will be severe penalties for participating in academic dishonesty.

**Attendance**

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. Regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes is expected, and the university reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of nonattendance. Attendance is expected and continued absences will affect your grade.

**Class Schedule**

***Week One: What is Sociology/ September 22-26***

*Ishmael 1-39*

*Engaged Sociologist 1-30*

***Week Two:***

*Quiz 1*

*Engaged Sociologist 31-46*

*Weather Underground DVD*

***Week Three: What does social change look like? / October 6-10***

*Engaged Sociologist 46-62*

*Ishmael 40-120*

***Week Four: Creating Civic Engagement versus Creating Apathy/ October 13-17***

*Quiz 2*

***Week Five: Learning How to act in Society/ October 20-24***

*Quiz 2*

*Ishmael 120-200*

*Engaged Sociologist 63-80*

***Week Six: Social Struggles against the Status Quo/ October 27-31***

*Ishmael 200-267*

*Engaged Sociologist pp 81-101*

*Quiz 3*

***Week Seven: Big Money does not always win / November 3-7***

*Engaged Sociologist pp 102-122*

***Week Eight: Let's Talk About Race/ November 10-14***

*Quiz 4*

*Engaged Sociologist pp 123-139*

***Week nine: Sex, Gender and Power/ November 17-21***

*Engaged Sociologists pp140-160*

*DVD Killing us softly*

***Week Ten: Group Presentations/ November 24-26***

*Group Presentation Planning*

***Week Eleven: Engaged Sociologist/December 1-5***

*Group Presentations*

***Week Twelve: Into the Wild***

*\*Required readings may change*