



Sociology 105: Blacks in America  
Bellevue College     Spring Quarter 2015  
MW 12:30pm-2:40pm, Room D-101  
Course website accessible via CANVAS

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Office Hours: MW 2:45-3:45pm TTH 1p-2:30p

#### Course Catalog Description

What does it mean to be Black in America? Explore the social and cultural background of Blacks in America through the lens of sociology, and analyze the ways in which social institutions have been transformed by these contributions. Through research and writing, themes include music and popular culture, activism, politics, and/or social change.

#### Course Content

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. 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.

## General Rules and Expectations

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present (e.g. awake).
- Complete the readings no later than the start of the week assigned.
- Be prepared to contribute to the in-class conversations.
- Take notes on the readings, videos, and songs.
- Proper use of laptops required. No Facebook, Twitter or Surfing
- 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.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, student will be able to:

- Explain the general social, economic, and political conditions of Blacks in the United States.
- Identify key contributions of Blacks to American social, political, and cultural life.
- Discuss "race," "ethnicity," and "racism" from a sociological perspective.
- Describe how class, sexuality, and gender shape the experience of race.

## Required Textbooks

1. The Souls of Black Folk. W.E.B. DuBois.
2. Dear White People. Justin Simien. (DWP)
3. Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? Toure (Who's Afraid?)
4. Post-Black. Ytasha Womack.

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed below (see Course Schedule).

NOTE: This class will be more seminar and discussion than lecture and listen. It is essential that you be present here in class on a consistent basis.

Week	Topic(s)	Readings/Notes/Film(s)
Week 1	4/6: Welcome and Overview "The Great Debaters" 4/8: Meet the Wiley College Debate team! Class meets in N201	Syllabus
Week 2	4/13: What does it mean to be Black? Keeping it real... 4/15: Post-Racial America? Group Work	"Who's Afraid?" p. 1-56 "Post Black" foreword and Introduction, pages 1-64
Week 3	4/20: Early Black Thought Double Consciousness The Talented Tenth 4/22: "Dear White People" Screening	"The Souls of Black Folk" "Post Black," p. 139-156 (Note: Prof E @ SOCC)
Week 4	4/27: "Dear White People" debate/discussion The N-Word 4/29: Black Authenticity Shades of Black: Multiracial Identity	"DWP" p. 1-149 "Who's Afraid," p. 116-174 "Who's Afraid," p. 57-115 "Post Black," p. 65-80
Week 5	5/4: Black, Gay, Lesbian and Proud African American Spirituality 5/6: "Beyond Beats and Rhymes" Screening African America & Popular Culture I	"Post Black," p. 81-96 "Post Black," p. 97-112 "Post Black," p. 113-138 plus p. 157-172
Week 6	5/11: In Class Midterm Exam 5/13: "Good Hair" Screening	BLUE BOOK NEEDED "Post Black," p. 127-138
Week 7	5/18: African America & Popular Culture II 5/20: The Black Athlete: "Year of the Bulls"	
Week 8	5/25: Memorial Day NO CLASS 5/27: Guest Lecturer TBA	(Note: Eric @ NCORE)
Week 9	6/1: The Obama Factor The Future of Blacks in America 6/3: Group Project Planing Day	"Who's Afraid," p 175-216 "Post Black," p. 173-190
Week 10	6/8: Group Presentations 6/10: Group Presentations	
Week 11	6/15: Last Day of Class 6/17: FINAL EXAM, 11:30A-1:30P	BLUE BOOK NEEDED

### Course Requirements:

- Readings. 300pts  
There are fifteen (15) sets of readings, each worth 20pts. Students are required to turn in their notecards at the start of class. \*\*\*Notecards can be used to on both the midterm and final exams\*\*\* DUE Weekly
  - In Class Activities. 100pts  
Case Studies, Song Annotations, etc. DUE dates vary
  - Film Analysis Homework. 150pts  
Questions will be posted on CANVAS. Typewritten answers should be uploaded to CANVAS as well. DUE Dates:
    - The Great Debaters, 4/13
    - Dear White People, 4/27
    - Beyond Beats and Rhymes, 5/11
    - Good Hair, 5/18
    - Year of the Bulls, 5/25
  - In Class Midterm. 100pts  
Bring blue books... May, 11th, 12:30-2:30
  - Group Project. 200pts  
Topic selection and statement. 30pts. DUE: 4/20  
Annotated Bibliography. 50pts DUE: 5/4  
In Class Presentation. 100pts DUE: 6/8 or 6/10  
Peer Evaluation. 20pts DUE: 6/15
  - Final Exam. 100pts  
Bring blue books... June 17th, 11:30-1:30
  - Seminar and Debate participation. 50pts
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### Grading:

There are 1000 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

950+pts = (4.0) A	720+pts = (2.3) C+	>560pts= (0.0) Fail
900+pts = (3.7) A-	690+pts = (2.0) C	
850+pts = (3.3) B+	650+pts = (1.7) C-	
800+pts = (3.0) B	600+pts = (1.3) D+	
750+pts = (2.7) B-	560+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 with- out 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

Wednesday June 17, 2015 from 11:30am-1:30pm

### Withdrawal From Class

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:

#### 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 [asn@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:asn@bellevuecollege.edu) or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. [www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/)

The DRC office is located in B132 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](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

### 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.