CULTURAL AND ETHNIC STUDIES 100: RACE IN THE U.S. OAS

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*Please do not contact me at my BC address unless you cannot reach me on the class website.

Office: A 200D Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY Phone: 425.564-3082

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Privilege, Power and Difference, Allan G. Johnson

Dreams from my Father, Barak Obama

The Audacity of Hope, Barak Obama

Introductory Remarks

This CES 100: Race in the U.S. is a completely online class; therefore, you are not required to attend classroom sessions. However, CES 100 is not a correspondence course, completed on your own timetable in isolation. How much you learn will be directly proportional to how much you participate in the online community, how well you manage your time, and how well you follow written directions. If you are not sure whether or not an online course is right for you, complete the following questionnaire: http://distance-ed.bcc.ctc.edu/webassess/

If you signed up for this course thinking that it would involve less work than a course in the classroom, you were mistaken. Please be advised that the workload may be very difficult for you if work and family demands do not allow you a minimum of two to three uninterrupted hours every weekday to work on the assignments for this class.

Instructor's Philosophy:

I strongly believe that each of us is responsible for what happens in this class. Students are just as capable of making a class great as the instructor. We are studying communities and cultures, and in the process we are also creating a new community on line. We are all still striving, still learning. The key to a successful class is mutual responsibility. We all have a myriad of valuable insights to offer. I will expect each of you to be committed to the course, just as you will expect commitment from me. I am excited to learn with you. It is my hope that we can have a fun, enriching quarter. Therefore, expect to do a good bit of work, and plan on participating fully in online discussions and seminars.

I would like to really encourage every student to keep informed about issues of race in current events. By watching the news, reading newspapers and magazines, listening to the radio, students will be better able to talk about the ways that race impacts all of our lives.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the quarter, successful students will be able to:

• Develop interdisciplinary connections while exploring the sources of identity and intercultural conflict.

• Develop teamwork and collaborative skills while cooperating in an intellectual endeavor; to investigate ideas together, respect others' insights and opinions, and develop areas of consensus and agreement.

• Develop self-reliance and responsibility for one's own learning: taking initiative, following up ideas and intuitions, evaluating one's own progress, and developing learning goals.

• Learn methods of discussion and discourse of a controversial and complex topic.

Student Responsibilities

1. Technology requirements: First and probably most important, the student enrolled in this course MUST have a reliable computer and some attendant software and services, including a word processor, an Internet Service Provider, and a browser service.

2. Computer skills: Some critical skills you must have include: uploading and downloading files, following written directions, attaching files to e-mail messages, and knowing how your browser and computer system work.

3. Computer problems: Keep me informed if you have problems, and I will try to find help for you. I am no computer expert, so--unless the server is malfunctioning--it is your responsibility to get any technological problems worked out.

4. Daily logins: To be successful in an online course, you must be self-motivated and work independently. I strongly recommend that you login daily (particularly during the week), check your course mailbox and the calendar to see what assignments you should be working on.

5. "Netiquette" (Courtesy Expectations): This class is conducted entirely online, yet I expect you to be as courteous and respectful to me and to your classmates as you would be in person in a classroom setting. Emails and discussion board posts cannot be taken back. So, please write all of your correspondence with care and courtesy; don't send emails or posts that you might later regret - in terms of content, words, and tone. A good test is, "Would I say that in person, in exactly those words, to my professor or classmate I don't know well? How would I react if I were on the receiving end?" (Also keep in mind that even if you're thick-skinned, many of your classmates are not and shouldn't have to be here.) Another good rule of thumb: Before sending something, write it up, save it, go away for an hour or more, then re-read it before posting.

6. Content Appropriateness: Where any type of assignment for this course is concerned, no sexual or sexually suggestive content will be tolerated. Any such assignments will receive a zero and be forwarded to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Instructor responsibilities

1. Communication: If you send me a message through the course mailbox or the discussion area, you can expect me to respond within 24 hours on weekdays. If you send a message on weekends, you can expect me to respond to you by Monday morning.

2. Feedback: During the opening weeks of the course, you can expect some feedback from me for just about every assignment. I want to make sure that you understand my expectations and the instructions. Later in the course, I focus primarily on your papers, so I will not provide as much feedback about discussions, peer reviews, and other assignment postings (though I will continue to evaluate and grade them).

3. Deadlines: Deadlines (due dates and times) are posted on the course calendar. You will discover early on that I am firm about them. If you try to post assignments after the deadline listed on the course calendar, you may find that the discussion has been locked to prevent late postings. I'm not trying to be punitive, but I cannot grade discussions while people are continuing to post. Once the submission window is closed, I will no longer accept assignment. Late papers will lose points.

What assignments will be graded for this course?

Papers, Discussions and Exams:

• Each student will write a short essay each week, 2 pages in length double spaced on an assigned topic related to class readings. Each essay will be worth 10 points of the final grade for a total of 100 points and will be worth 50% of your total grade.

• Each student must be an active participant in the discussions online. **This means reading your classmates' posts. Read at least 2/3 of the responses posted for each discussion.**

• Each student will post a substantial response (at least a full 5 sentence paragraph) to the discussion prompts or to other students' discussion posts at least 2 times a week (one statement and one response to others) that will count as class participation. Participation will count as 50% of the final grade. Instructions and requirements for participating in discussions are posted in each lesson.

I am looking forward to this quarter, and hope that we can do good things together!