

Sociology 101

Intro to Sociology

Spring 2014

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

Office Hours: Friday or by Appointment 9:30-10:30 A tower room 100

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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?

Week Two April 7-11

Ishmael 1-39

Engaged Sociologist 1-30

Week Three: What does social change look like? / April 14-18

Quiz 1

Engaged Sociologist 31-46

Weather Underground DVD

Week Four: Creating Civic Engagement versus Creating Apathy/ April 21-25

Engaged Sociologist 46-62

Ishmael 40-120

Week Five: Learning How to act in Society/ April 28- 2

Quiz 2

Ishmael 120-200

Engaged Sociologist 63-80

Week Six: Social Struggles against the Status Quo/ May5-9

Ishmael 200-267

Engaged Sociologist pp 81-101

Week Seven: Big Money does not always win / May 12-16

Quiz 3

Engaged Sociologist pp 102-122

Week Eight: Let's Talk About Race/ May 19-23

Quiz 4

Engaged Sociologist pp 123-139

Week nine: Sex, Gender and Power/ May 26-30

Engaged Sociologists pp140-160

DVD Killing us softly

Quiz 5

Week Ten: Group Presentations/ June 2-6

Group Presentations

Week Eleven: Engaged Sociologist

161-200

Week Twelve: Into the Wild

**Required readings may change*