

**American Studies/Anthropology 180 Anthropology of American Life**  
**Winter 2007, 5 credits**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays 7:50 to 10:00 PM**  
**Bellevue Community College**  
**Instructor: Dr. Julie J. Smith**  
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Required texts:

Yetman, Norman, 1999 *Majority and Minority*: Allyn and Bacon Publishers  
Parrillo, Vincent, 2005 *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations*: Pearson Publishers

American Studies/Anthropology 180 is a cross listed course that examines American society through a series of readings on ethnicity, race, class and gender in the United States. The class will study the experiences of African Americans, Asians, Latinos and Native Americans in the history of the United States and also study the development of the civil rights movement. We will also study the history of immigration to the United States, starting with the mass European immigration of the 1900s and then consider the changes in current immigration.

The class will study the opportunities and problems that arise from being a member of a multicultural society with a historical understanding of how ideas and acceptance of diversity develop--and are accepted or challenged overtime.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the complex history of ethnicity and race in the United States.
- Explore how ideas about diversity change due to social and political pressures.
- How to examine and think critically about the mass media.
- How to find and develop a project from popular culture that discusses issues of class, ethnicity or race.

How to get a good grade in this class

Attendance and participation are required.

Complete the weekly readings

Take notes

Complete the Monday think pieces and submit on time.

Prepare and complete the popular culture presentation

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### Weekly assignment

Every Monday (except Weeks 1, 11, and 12) each student must submit a one to two page think piece. This consists of reading an article from a newspaper, magazine or online site. These articles must cover aspects of American society and be pertinent to the class and readings. Each student is expected to write his or her reactions or impressions from this article and a copy of the original must be attached to the think piece. This is not a synopsis of the article or a book review but a thoughtful paper with reactions or ideas. The assignment is to discuss what you think about the article, including any reactions or disagreements you have with it. This is your space to think critically about the society you live in and to express your own thoughts. The papers must be word-processed and turned in on time—no late papers will be accepted.

### Quizzes

There are two short quizzes that consist of key-terms and one or two short answers.

### Midterm and Final

These are longer versions of the quizzes and will be centered on the readings and class discussions.

### Popular culture presentation

Each student must choose a clip from a movie, video, TV show or documentary that illustrates something they find interesting about American society. Then, (and this is the most important aspect) the student must examine what this is saying about American society. Is it criticizing something, or merely restating the status quo? Does the student agree or disagree with this portrayal of American life? Each presentation must use one or more of the key concepts to discuss their choice in their written paper (3 to 5 pages) and their presentation to the class. If this component is missing the grade will be cut by ½.

### Grading

This course is graded on a point system and the total is 1000 points.

The breakdown is:

Attendance=100 points

Participation and papers=100 points

2 quizzes=200 points

Midterm=150 points

Presentation=200 points

Final=250 points

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A=1000-960  
A-=959-900  
B+=899-870  
B=869-830  
B-=829-800  
C+=799-750  
C=749-650  
C-=649-600  
D+=599-560  
D=559-500  
F=<500

Important notes about the class and classroom etiquette

If you cannot attend regularly then please drop the class.

If you drop the class please make sure your name is off the class roster.

Turn off all cell phones during class.

Please no food or eating during class, eat before or after.

Be respectful of other students.

Medical absences must be documented.

If you miss 3 to 5 classes your grade will be lowered by half a grade points and 6 to 8 will reduce your grade by a whole grade point.

If you have special learning needs please go the DSS Office and then inform the instructor.

### **Readings and Course Calendar**

#### **Week 1 January 3**

Introduction to course

#### **Week 2 January 8 and 10**

Think piece due

Monday read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 in Parrillo, page 1-48

Wednesday read Introduction to Yetman, page 1-37

#### **Week 3 January 17 (January 15 Holiday Martin Luther King Jr., Day)**

Think piece due

Wednesday Read articles 1, 2, and 3 in Yetman Part One

#### **Week 4 January 22 and 24**

Quiz 1 Wednesday

Think piece due

Monday read Yetman Part 2 page 87-121

Wednesday read articles 4, 5, 6, and 7 in Yetman Part Two

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**Week 5 January 29 and 31**

Thin Piece due

Monday read Chapter 3 Parrillo page 51-68

Wednesday read articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 in Yetman

**Week 6 February 5 and 7**

Think piece due

Monday read Chapters 4 and 5 Parrillo

Wednesday read Part Three Yetman page 227 to 271

**Week 7 February 12 and 14**

Midterm Wednesday

Think piece due

Monday read chapter 6 Parrillo

Wednesday read articles 12, 19, 20 and 21 Yetman

**Week 8 February 21 (February 19 Holiday)**

Think piece due

Wednesday read articles 13, 14, 15, and 16,

**Week 9 February 26 and 28**

Quiz 2

Thin piece due

Monday read Chapter 7 Parrillo

Wednesday read Part Four 431-460 Yetman

**Week 10 March 5 and 7**

Think piece due

Read Yetman articles 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27

**Week 11 March 12 and 14**

Popular Culture Presentations

**Week 12 March 19 and 21**

Monday Final review

Wednesday Final Exam