

From: Kim Pollock

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To: Mary Anne Meng

Subject: Ethnic Studies 102 syllabus 2009.doc

Here's my Winter syllabus for ETHN 102.

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Ethnic Studies 102
Whiteness in the United States

Instructor: Kimberly Pollock

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Office: C 207 Office

Time: 10.30 am-11.30 daily

Phone: 425.564-3082

Class Time and Place: 9.30-10.20 daily L221

Required Texts:

If White Kids Die, Dick J. Reavis

Refusing Racism, Cynthia Stokes Brown

Privilege, Power and Difference, Allan Johnson

Course Description

This course is designed to explore the role that Whiteness plays in our social, economic and political structure. When most of us think of race, we focus on people of color –Latinos, Asians, African Americans, Native Americans. As a culture we do not think of 'white' as a race. In this class we will study the construction of 'whiteness' as a cultural construct, as a racial identity. Through readings from sociology and literature, will look at how this master constructs form culture.

Instructor's Philosophy:

I strongly believe that each of us is responsible for what happens in this classroom. 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 in our own classroom. 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 class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop interdisciplinary connections while exploring the sources of identity and intercultural conflict.
- To 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.
- To 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.
- To learn methods of discussion and discourse of a controversial and complex topic.

Policies in support of the Course Objectives:

1. Be Here! I expect each student to be in class, on time, each day, for the full time allotted for the class. Absences will affect the final grade in the following way: MORE THAN 5 ABSENCES FOR ANY REASON WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT NOT BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE THE FINAL, AND THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF "F" FOR THE COURSE. **MISSING MORE THAN 15 MINUTES OF THE CLASS COUNTS AS AN ABSENCE.**

2. Work must be turned in on time and presented in a professional manner.
3. We must listen to each other. This one will be difficult for all of us. We have to give respect, and create an atmosphere in the classroom where we can all feel comfortable enough to make mistakes. We must also be able to express our opinions even if what we have to say is not popular, or easily received. True learning can only take place in an atmosphere which is safe enough to examine any ideas which arise. It is the responsibility of each of us to keep this classroom safe.
4. In a similar vein as #3, I expect to hear from you. Part of the thought process is verbalization. Both speaking and writing help to clarify our thoughts. Participation counts. Therefore, I expect all students to be prepared for each class, and to contribute.

Tests, Projects and Papers:

- **Each student will also turn in 1 page seminar paper response to the readings once a week that will count as class participation.** Participation will count as 30% of the final grade.
- **Each student will participate in group research project which will be presented to the class.** This group presentation will contribute 30% to final class grade.
- **Each student will write 2 essays, 2-3 pages in length on an assigned topic related to class readings.** Each essay will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Director of the Disability Resource Center (in Room B132) to establish their eligibility for accommodation. Telephone: (425) 564-2498 or TTY (425) 564-4110. In addition, students are encouraged to review their accommodation requirements with each instructor during the first week of the quarter."

Useful Websites:

Library Media Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>

Research Help: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/research.html>

Reading/Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

Counseling Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/hdc/>

Academic Tutoring: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>

The following link will connect you to the Student Handbook, which will give you vital information about being a student at BCC: http://bellevuecollege.edu/stupro/handbook_cd2008/default.html

My office hours are for your use. Come and see me any time you have a question of a problem with the course or your work.

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