

Sociology 105:
Sociology of Blacks in America
Bellevue College
Fall Term 2009

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Office Hours Daily 10:30-11:20 Office: D200A

Class meeting times: M-F 9:30-10:20, Room R-304

Course Catalog Description:

Explore the social and cultural background of Blacks in America. Themes include music and popular culture, activism, politics, and/or social change.

Classroom Theme/Pedagogical Approach:

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. SOC 105 will feature hip-hop music, stand-up comedy and several films that have strong language. 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.

Required Textbooks:

- Greenfield-Sanders, Timothy and Mitchell, Elvis. *The Black List*. Atria Books, 2008.
- Wilmore, Larry. *I'd Rather We Got Casinos*. Hyperion Press, 2009.
- Williams, Juan. *Enough*. Three Rivers Press, 2006.

Readings:

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed. Please be prepared to discuss assigned readings for a given week as soon as we return to class from the preceding weekend.

Course Schedule

Week 1	<i>Welcome and Introductions</i> <i>How did we get here?</i>	Enough, p. 1-66 "Space Traders"; Chris Rock clips
Week 2	<i>Social history and the early development of Black culture</i>	Enough, p. 67-124; "The Great Debaters"
Week 3	<i>Black Music traditions;</i> <i>The social influence of Hip-Hop</i>	Enough, p. 125-167 "Beyond Beats and Rhymes"
Week 4	<i>Lessons from Hurricane Katrina</i>	Enough, p. 168-232; "When the Levees Broke"
Week 5	<i>Popular Culture: Black Comedy as socio-political commentary</i>	...Casinos, p. 1-80 Chris Rock clips; "Kings of Comedy"
Week 6	<i>African American Film</i>	...Casinos, p. 81-146 "Hollywood Shuffle"
Week 7	<i>Activism and Social Change</i>	...Casinos, p. 147-224
Week 8	<i>Social Deviance</i> <i>Sociology of Sport</i>	The Black List, p. 1-73 "Year of the Bull" documentary
Week 9	<i>Family and Life with others</i> <i>Sociology of Blacks in America</i>	The Black List, p. 74-133 Media clips TBD
Week 10	<i>Where do we go from here?</i>	The Black List, p. 134-196 Jay-Z's "Fade to Black" documentary

Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to:

- 1) Understand the concepts of “race” and “ethnicity” from a sociological perspective;
- 2) Explain the general social, economic, and political conditions of Blacks in the United States, understand how those conditions compare to other racial/ethnic groups, and articulate how those conditions have changed over time;
- 3) Identify key contributions of Blacks to American social, political, and cultural life;
- 4) Understand the impacts of racial prejudice and discrimination on the daily lived experiences of Black Americans;
- 5) Explain how race, class, and gender work together as a matrix of inequality;
- 6) Distinguish between objectivity and subjectivity and between opinion and fact;
- 7) Explain how social institutions impact the individual lives of Black Americans;
- 8) Describe the many social forces that work together to maintain racial stratification;
- 9) Provide examples of concrete actions that can reduce interpersonal and institutional racism;
- 10) Articulate his/her own position within the racial stratification system of the United States; and
- 11) Understand perspectives different from one’s own.

General Rules and Expectations:

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present.
- Complete the readings no later than the *start* of the week assigned.
- Extra credit opportunities available by request. See me...
- Properly manage your laptop, netbook, cell phone and/or PDA.
- 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.
- *Discussion: What do you expect from me as classroom facilitator? What can I expect from you all as students?*

Course Requirements:

- *Attendance and Participation*
100 points. Be in class. On time. Complete readings in a timely manner. Listen actively. Join in discussions. Engage in activities. Take notes. Demonstrate critical thinking. Ask questions. Be an active learner. **10pts per week.**
- *Response Papers*
200 points. There will be four (4) opportunities for students to express their thoughts and reflections on songs, films, exercises or activities shared in class. Grading is based on your ability to demonstrate an understanding of the content through your own Sociological Imagination. **50pts per response. Due dates: 9/28, 10/19, 11/9, 11/23**
- *Final Project*
200 points. Choose an area of sociology that you want to explore more in depth. You will then spend some time researching the subject before submitting a final project in a format of your choosing. Examples: spoken word presentations, original Rap songs, short films, dramatic skits. Collaboration is encouraged. Traditional powerpoint presentations and research papers are options for those more comfortable expressing themselves in that manner. **Due Wednesday, Dec. 2nd.**

Grading:

There are 500 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

496pts = (4.0) A

480pts = (3.7) A-

460pts = (3.3) B+

440pts = (3.0) B

420pts = (2.7) B-

400pts = (2.3) C+

380pts = (2.0) C

360pts = (1.7) C-

340pts = (1.3) D+

320pts = (1.0) D-

>319pts= (0.0) Fail

****A student must participate in at least 50% of in-class activities and requirements in order to earn a passing grade in this class. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a Failing grade being assessed.**

Accommodations:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact our Disability Resource Center (DRC): Room B132. Phone: 425-564-2498 or TTY 425-564-4110. Web: www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc/

Bellevue College FLU policy:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that more than one kind of flu virus will be spreading this season, including seasonal flu and the influenza virus H1N1 (otherwise known as swine flu). Bellevue College has established the website below to keep students, employees and the public informed of the latest information about the flu and to provide resources, recommendations and planning guides on what you can do now to prepare, and what to do if you get sick. www.bellevuecollege.edu/flu

Academic Honesty:

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without 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 Vice President 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 Vice President of Student Services.

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>.

*****REQUIRED for this Class**

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](#).