

Sociology 122:
Activism and Popular Culture
Bellevue College
Spring Term 2010

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Office Hrs: M-F 11:30-12:20 Office: D200A

Class meeting times:
M-F 12:30-1:20, Room C-168

Course Catalog Description:

Provides an historic and contemporary perspective on social and political movements through the lens of popular culture. Students explore literature, film, music, and news media to critically understand a given social/political movement in the United States. For Spring 2010, we will focus on African American Activism and Popular Culture.

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 122 will feature readings, music, comedy clips, films and discussions that include adult themes and 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.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of SOC 122, the successful student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a general knowledge and comprehension of how activism in North America is reflected through and within popular culture textual narratives.
- Demonstrate their comprehension of and utilize some of the basic theories in Popular Culture.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of social movements in the United States with respect to the group or movement of study in question.
- Demonstrate a general understanding of the field of Popular Culture with respect to Sociology, Cultural Studies, and the history of Social/Political Movements.

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.
- Properly manage your laptop, netbook, cell phone and/or PDA.
- TEXTING in class... [exhale]... Let's talk...
- 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.

Required Textbooks:

- 1) **"In Search of the Black Fantastic." Richard Iton. Oxford Press, 2008.**
- 2) **"The Hip Hop Wars." Tricia Rose. Basic Books, 2008**

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics /Themes	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	What is Popular Culture? What is Social Activism? Black Culture and Activism	Syllabus
Week 2	Unforgiveable Blackness: Jack Johnson and Paul Robeson Early Black Cinema	Iton, p. 1-80
Week 3	Authenticity: Art <i>and</i> Activism? The Harlem Renaissance Ragtime, Big Band and Blues	Iton, p. 81-194 → Response 1 DUE
Week 4	The Revolution will not be Televised Radio to TV: <i>Amos and Andy</i> Stereotypical Imagery: Ethnic Notions The Cosby Show: Activism or not?	Iton, p. 284-290 Project Topic?
Week 5	Souled Out?: Black Athletes and Activism	→ Response 2 DUE
Week 6	Protest Music: Blues to the Birth of Hip-Hop Songs of Civil Rights	Rose, p. 1-132
Week 7	Post Civil Rights Film and Television	→ Response 3 DUE
Week 8:	"We say what you want to say": Black Comedian, Black Activist?	→ Projects DUE ←
Week 9:	Hip Hop is Dead: Is Nas right? Michael Franti and Spearhead	Rose, p. 133-273
Week 10:	Where do we go from here? Activism and Popular Culture in Post-Obama America	→ Response 4 DUE

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation

60 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.

- Response Papers

240 points. There will be four (4) opportunities for students to reflect and respond to media presentations shown in class. Each paper will be approximately three (3) pages in length. A separate handout detailing this course requirement will be provided. *60pts per response.*

Due dates: April 19, May 3, May 17, and June 7.

- Popular Culture Project

100 points. Students are required to design a PowerPoint, HTML, Flash, or Keynote presentation that expands on a topic related to the course theme. A detailed handout outlining expectations will be provided.

Projects are due on Monday, March 24.

Grading:

There are 400 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

380+pts = (4.0) A	290+pts = (2.3) C+
360+pts = (3.7) A-	275+pts = (2.0) C
340+pts = (3.3) B+	260+pts = (1.7) C-
325+pts = (3.0) B	245+pts = (1.3) D+
310+pts = (2.7) B-	230+pts = (1.0) D
	>230pts = (0.0) Fail

Online Grade Book:

www.snapgrades.net

NOTES:

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>.

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](#).

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

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 Dean 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 Dean of Student Services.

*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

There is no Final Exam scheduled for Sociology 122. The last class meeting day is 6/11/10.

Withdrawal from Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY:

by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

Classroom Meetings Dates

We will not be meeting in-class on the following dates:

April 23 (Student of Color Conference) and May 28/31 (Memorial Day)