

**American Studies/Anthropology 180 Anthropology of American Life
Bellevue Community College**

Fall 2008, 5 credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:50 to 10:00 PM

Instructor: Dr. Julie J. Smith

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Appointments by request

Required texts:

Boulanger, Clare. 2008. *Reflecting on America*. Boston: Pearson Publishers

De Vita, Phillip & James Armstrong. 2002. *Distant Mirrors, America as a Foreign Culture*. California: Wadsworth Publishers

Parrillo, Vincent. 2008. *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations*. Boston: Pearson Publishers

American Studies/Anthropology 180 is a cross listed course that examines American culture 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 *Distant Mirrors* (2002) and *Reflecting on America* (2008) texts contain short essays about aspects of American culture and society by foreign anthropologists. These essays will allow us to read about American culture as seen by social scientists living and working in the United States. This is the etic perspective, similar to that of cultural anthropologists who study foreign cultures; it allows us to examine preconceived ideas and learn about aspects of our culture that might be overlooked because of our immersion in it.

The class will also study the opportunities and problems that arise from being a member of a multicultural society along with a historical understanding of how ideas and acceptance of diversity develop--and are accepted overtime through the work of social movements and economic/political changes.

Learning Outcomes

Anthropology of American Life Online Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the approaches to studying people, cultures and cultural productions taken in the related fields of cultural anthropology and cultural studies, identify

- the various components of the culture concept, and explain the components that all cultures have in common.
2. Explain some of the differences in the anthropological approach when applied to our own culture in contrast to other cultures; explain some of the insights gained from studies made of aspects of American culture by foreign scholars doing fieldwork in this country.
 3. Identify the major characteristics of the American political economy and the changing patterns of economic inequality.
 4. Identify the cultural characteristics of exercise of power and politics in the U.S.
 5. Describe the theoretical approaches and the conclusions drawn regarding American culture in the studies done by various social scientists, and draw contrasts among, and offer critiques of, these approaches.
 6. Describe the major changes that have occurred in American life as the result of specific technological changes.
 7. Explain contemporary anthropological views on ethnicity and nationalism and demonstrate knowledge of the history of multicultural America.
 8. Explain contemporary anthropological views on gender, family and generation, and demonstrate knowledge of the history of gender and family relations in America.
 9. Describe some of the representations of American life in various American rituals.

How to get a good grade in this class

Attendance and participation are required.
 Complete the weekly readings
 Take notes
 Complete the Tuesday think pieces and submit on time.
 Prepare and complete the popular culture presentation

Weekly assignment

Every Tuesday (except Weeks 1, 12, and 13) 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

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.

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 point and 6 to 8 will reduce your grade by a whole grade point.

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

Readings and Course Calendar

Week 1 September 23 & 25

Introduction to course-Tuesday

For Wednesday read Parillo Chapter 1 and 2, pages 1-48

Week 2 September 31 & October 2

Think piece due Tuesday and Parrillo Chapters 2 and 3

For Wednesday read Parrillo Chapters 4

Week 3 October 7 & 9

Think piece due Tuesday

For Tuesday read Parillo Chapters 5 & 6

For Thursday read Parillo Chapter 7

Week 4 October 10 & 11

Think piece due Tuesday

For Tuesday read in Distant Mirrors Chapters 1 & 2

Thursday read Chapter 3 Distant Mirrors, Quiz 1

Quiz 1 Thursday

Week 5 October 14 & 15

Tuesday Think Piece due

For Tuesday read Chapters 5 & 6

For Thursday read Chapter 7

Week 6 October 21 and 23

Tuesday Think piece due

For Tuesday read Chapters 9 & 10

Thursday read Chapter 11

Week 7 October 28 and 30

Tuesday Think piece due
 For Tuesday read Chapters 13 & 15
 Thursday read Chapter 16, Midterm

Midterm Wednesday**Week 8 November 4 & 6**

Tuesday Think piece due
 For Tuesday read Distant Mirrors Chapters 18 & 19
 Thursday read Reflecting on America, Introduction & Chapter 7

Week 9 No class November 11 & class 13

Tuesday Think piece due
 For Tuesday read Reflecting on America Chapters 12 & 13
 Thursday read Reflecting on America Chapter 3 Quiz 2

Quiz 2 Thursday**Week 10 November 18 & 20**

Tuesday Think piece due
 For Tuesday read Reflecting on America Chapters 5 & 11
 Thursday read reflecting on America Chapters 8 & 14

Week 11 November 25 class & 27 no class

Tuesday Think piece due
 Tuesday read Reflecting on America Chapters 17 & 18
 Thursday no class

Week 12 December 2 & 4

Tuesday and Thursday Popular Culture Presentations
 Review for Final

Week 13 December 10

Final exam

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Spring 2008

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 Community 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 Community 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.

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

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

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 BCC 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.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community 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.*