

**Sociology 101
Intro to Sociology
Winter Quarter 2011**

Instructor: Nicholas Russ, M.A History, M.A African American Studies
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Course Description

In this Intro to Sociology class we will examine concepts and theoretical frameworks that govern our current systems. We will examine concepts such as capitalism, political ideologies, constructs of religion, race, culture, gender, class and inequality. By examining these constructs, we will better understand systems of hierarchy, stratification and communal regulations that impact our daily lives. Understanding and questioning our own positionality and how our own multi-layered identities help us view the world in regards to pollution, Aids epidemic, poverty, political corruption so we can then begin the process of becoming active participants in the process of change.

We will be using the **required texts** in connection with outside articles and other educational tools to create an academic framework that allows us to question. Questioning is fundamental in the process of learning therefore, we must begin to question the ways of the world if we are ever going to change them.

Required Texts

Liberation Sociology: *Feagin, Joe R. and Hernan Vera (2001)*

Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community, *Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White (2006)*

Ishmael: An adventure of the mind and spirit, *Quinn, Daniel (1991)*

Books are now available at the Campus Bookstore

What is expected of you?

In this class I am looking for you to challenge yourself and display through your weekly writings, midterm and group presentations that you're wrestling with the course material. You're ultimate success in this class is contingent on your ability to engage with the material and your classmates.

Assignments

Weekly Opinion Papers / 100 points

There will be a weekly opinion paper on an important sociological question that will be assigned at the beginning of the week. This assignment will be two pages, double-spaced and will be collected every Friday.

Midterm/100 points

There will be a midterm over sociological terms. These terms will be discussed throughout the first few weeks of class. A list of terms will be provided.

Group Presentation /100 points

You will be assigned to a group and will need to create a presentation on a historical sociologist. The specifics of this assignment will be given at a later date.

Final Paper /100 points

You will be required to write a final paper based on the book *Ishmael*. The assignment will require you to answer a specific question that will be given at a different date. The final paper will be three to five pages in length.

Grading Breakdown

Weekly Opinion Papers- 25%

Midterm- 25%

Group Presentation- 25%

Final Paper- 25%

Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements.

Plagiarism

This class is guided by the principal of academic honesty. Be honest with yourself and do not cheat. Instructors have access to commercial software that detects plagiarism. There will be severe penalties for participating in academic dishonesty.

Attendance

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. Regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes is expected, and the university reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of nonattendance. Attendance is expected and continued absences will affect your grade.

Class Schedule

Week One: What is Sociology?

Liberation Sociology pp 1-59

Ishmael pp1-39

Engaged Sociologists pp 1-30

Week Two: What is Sociology, cont'd?

Liberation Sociology pp 60-139

Ishmael 40-79

Engaged Sociologists pp 31-46

Week Three: What does social change look like?

Liberation Sociology pp139- 195

Ishmael 80-119

Engaged Sociologists 47-62

Week Four: Viewing Economics through a sociological lens

Liberation Sociology pp195-241

Ishmael 120-159

Engaged Sociologists pp 63-80

Week Five: Midterm /Film “Capitalism a Love Story” (M. Moore)

Week Six: Social Struggles against the Status Quo

Ishmael 160-199

Engaged Sociologist pp 81-101

Letter from a Birmingham Jail (Dr Martin Luther King)

Week Seven: Race, Culture, and Identity (perspectives from Bell Hooks, Patricia Hill Collins)

Ishmael 200-239

Engaged Sociologist pp 102-122

Week Eight: Systems of Religion/ Film “Religulous” (Bill Maher)

Ishmael 240-267

Engaged Sociologist pp 123-139

Week nine: Sociology of Politics

*Engaged Sociologists pp161-211**

Week Ten: Group Presentations

Week Eleven: Group Presentations

Week Twelve: Final Paper

**Required readings may change*