

Sociology 105

Sociology of Black America

Spring Quarter 2016

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

Office Hours: 10:30-11.30 M-W, D200A-D Tower

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Course Description

What is the Black Experience in America? This will be the question that sets the context for this class. We will challenge ourselves to critically engage with the African American Experience through a careful examination of five dominant themes: History, Social Movements, Literature, Media Imaging and Contemporary Issues. Through this examination, a greater picture will emerge in regards to the Black experience in America. This class will offer a critique and challenge to the idea that the Black Experience is monolithic. The diversity of the Black experience will be explored and investigated in an academic setting. This class will be a democratic experiment and everyone's voice is imperative in this sociological exploration.

Required Textbooks

Salvation: Black People and Love, bell hooks

Between the World and Me, Ta Nehisi Coates

Assignment

Salvation Essay/ 30 points: There will be an essay assigned where you will be writing on themes and ideas from the book *Salvation*. There will be more details on this essay throughout the quarter.

Movie Reviews/ 60 points: We will be watching three films that deal with the Black experience. After the completion of the film, you will be answering a sociological question that allows for you to examine the sociological realities of blackness through film.

Between the World and Me Essay/ Presentation: The final assignment will be either an essay dealing with the book or a presentation that deals with and examines the ideological underpinnings of the book. This assignment will be discussed in further detail throughout the quarter.

Participation

It is imperative that you recognize that you are required to do more than attend. I expect students to engage and be active in the creation of a strong intellectual community. Being a passive participant will not be tolerated.

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.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Blackness

Week 2: bell hooks: Chapters 1-3...

Week 3: bell hooks: Chapters 4- 6

Week 4: bell hooks: Chapter 7- 9

Week 5: bell hooks: Chapter 10-11

Week 6: Between the World and Me

Week 7: Between the World and Me

Week 8: Between the World and Me

Week 9: Between the World and Me

Week 10: Between the World and Me

Week 11: What have we learned?

Assigned Readings Subject to Change

