

Nicholas Russ
SOC 264: INTERSECTIONS OF INEQUALITY AND IDENTITY
Spring 2017

Instructor: Nicholas Russ, M.A History, M.A African American Studies
Office Hours M- Thursday 9:30-10:30 or by app D 200 F
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Course Description:

We live in a society that – for better or for worse – organizes people according to their race, class, gender, sexuality, and (dis)ability. No identity category exists in a bubble – meaning, race cannot be separated from social class; social class cannot be separated from gender; gender cannot be separated from sexuality; sexuality cannot be separated from (dis)ability, and yet we often treat these identities as if they can. In this course, we will study race, class, gender, sexuality, and (dis)ability not as separate entities, but as entities that intersect and interact with one another. We will examine the relationships, interconnections, tensions, and harmonies of race, class, gender, sexuality, and (dis)ability as systems of privilege and oppression. We will explore how a given person can be advantaged and disadvantaged simultaneously. This approach is called “intersectionality” and it is at the forefront of a modern and more-complex way of thinking about society and identity. This will be the central focus of this course.

Required Text:

1. Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins. *Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology*. 8th edition. Cengage Learning, 2013.

A copy of this text is also on reserve in the library. Note the first week’s readings will be on our Canvas site for those who are waiting for online sellers (so no excuses for not reading!)

Assignments:

Sociological Write ups/ 30 points

There will be two sociological write-ups. We as a class will come up with a topic and then you will have the opportunity to examine your position and engage with the reality of sociological issues.

Chapter Reviews/ 50 points

There will be five chapter review write ups. In this review you will explore the reality of intersectionality and discuss important points and incorporate your persona perspective in order to highlight your understanding of assigned readings

Discussion Questions/50 points

There will be discussion questions given in class and you will be given the class period to work in small groups or as individuals. You will be exploring your perspectives through group interaction to answer the questions centered on intersections in a sociological context.

Group Presentation/ Presentation 50 Points

This project will be discussed later in the quarter and this will be a prompt that is connected to this assignment.

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.

Grading Breakdown

Your grade will be determined by how many points you earn divided how many points are possible. Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements. Bellevue College utilizes a consistent, published letter grading system to reflect the student's achievements.

Plagiarism

The principal of academic honesty guides this class. 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

First Week: Introduction to Intersectionality

Week Two: Why, Race, Class, and Gender still matter

Week Three"

