

Bellevue College

CES 100 Race in the U.S.

Fully Online Course

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Office Hours – By appt, online or on the phone

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a historical and contemporary perspective on the social, political, and cultural issues of Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Society. Good friends, even family members, often disagree about racial issues. Are we in a “post-race” America? Is there a level playing field? Do we still need affirmative action? This course begins by examining how race is socially constructed, first by exploring how racial categories have changed over time, then by discussing how these definitions have served the interests of powerful groups. Using pop culture, visual images and archives, and multimedia, you will also explore contemporary representations of race, and analyze how these images intersect with gender, class, and sexuality.

A NOTE ABOUT COURSE CONTENT: In Social Science and Humanities, we examine just about every aspect of the social world, we talk about provocative material. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, and they are always framed within an academic context. Keeping in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning, and you may be confronted with subject matter that might challenge you. Please note, however, that you are responsible for any course material you miss if you choose not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about content or climate, feel free to email me at any time.

READING REQUIREMENTS:

- All readings & handouts are available on our Canvas site.
 - Review the Start Here Module closely!
- Readings are uploaded in each module.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Any current Sociology Dictionary
- Any writing guide to help you in your quest for mastering college-level writing.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email. Emergency preparedness is important! If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, please see me immediately so I can also refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their [website](#).

EXPLORE THE LMC! The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least once a week, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by [email](#).

[Main Library Media Center](#)

For article databases

Learning & Course Outcomes:

Upon your dedicated participation and subsequent completion of this course, you should:

1. List basic approaches to the study of race and ethnicity.
2. Explain the difference between “race” and “ethnicity.”
3. Describe race and ethnic relations from a sociological perspective.
4. Articulate how race and ethnicity are social constructs.
5. Evaluate claims regarding the concept of race.
6. Recall key historical and sociological facts regarding race and ethnic groups.
7. Contrast the experiences of selected racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.
8. Compare race and ethnic relations in the United States with selected non-U.S. countries.
9. Apply findings of race and ethnic research to your life.

Rules & Expectations:

- Check into our online classroom often. No need to check in with me on this one. Make this class work for you on your own time.
- Complete your readings and homework assignments **on time**. You need to read/review your required material to complete all homework assignments.
- I do not accept second, third, fourth, etc. submissions. What you submit the first time is what gets graded.

Late work Policy:

- You will recognize that every professor has their approach to late work. This pairs with teaching philosophies and styles, and as such, you want to review and understand the rules. I try to make mine as clear as possible, but if you ever have questions, post to our Q&A Forum.
- **Discussion Boards:** Initial Discussion Board Posts (your main Discussion Board homework) are due on Thursdays. You are required to respond to the Initial Posts of two of your colleagues by the Sunday in the week of the active Discussion Board. After Sunday, the Discussions close for the week and no more late work is accepted. As with all homework, you get a two-day grace period for Discussion Board Initial Posts. If you post your Discussion Board Initial Post on Sunday, your grade is deducted five points. Your timely and active participation in Discussions is an important aspect of this class.
- **Other Homework:** There is a two-day grace period for all homework assignments (including Discussion Board Initial Posts). After that, I do not accept late work.
 - ***I allow two assignment extensions per term, beyond the two-day grace period. You must email me at least 24-hours before the deadline. Use those opportunities wisely.***
- **Exams:** If you don't have a midterm or final exam, no worries. Otherwise, note that I do not accept any late midterms or exams. The quizzes I have for my classes are always open until the end of the term.

- Final Paper: There are no late assignments accepted for Final Term Papers (sometimes called Portfolio Assignments) and all Incremental Assignments associated with the Final Paper.

Life happens. We have stressors. We must manage them. That includes traveling for work or pleasure and any problems with your jobs, partners, parents, siblings, friends, kids, other classes, etc. that come up. Please manage your lives so that you can also manage this class. Your life (and your homework) is your responsibility.

I expect that your behavior in our classroom is respectful. Continued disrespectful behavior in my class will result in your grade lowering. Please keep your postings to discussion boards (DBs) thoughtful and polite. One-on-one conversations should be taken offline, so our DBs don't get clogged. If you find at any point that you are uncomfortable with anything posted to a DB, please email me right away. Be wary of soapboxing in this class; you may be tempted to present your opinion and editorialize but refrain from doing this. We're here to think about the world in a fair, balanced, thoughtful, and nuanced manner. One-way thinking doesn't work here.

Remember: Falling behind can be hazardous to your health!

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS: In this course you will be completing assigned readings, participating in discussion board assignments, completing journal reflections, and completing a research assignment with associated milestones. The work you do for this class will keep you critically engaged with the world around you from a sociological perspective. There are no exams for this course. Expect to be writing every week. The key to this course is your thoughtful reflection on course material. The first seven weeks of the course include your review of assigned readings and films. The remaining weeks are for you to engage in the research process, reviewing articles you've found for your research paper, sharing them with the class (and with me), and wrapping up your Incremental Assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Participation*:	100 points
Journal Assignments (3):	150 points
Main Discussion Boards (3):	150 points
Final Research Paper Increments (4):	100 points
Final Research Paper (1):	300 points
TOTAL:	800 points

The Fine Print:

*Participation points accrue with various short assignments in the Discussion Area, such as your Introductory DB. These are labeled **PARTICIPATION DBs**. The Main DB assignments are labeled **MAIN DBs**.*

Attendance & Participation: Check in no less than four times per week. Be engaged with all of your discussion board assignments. Provoke energetic and polite discussion. Listen, read, and

comprehend actively. Work respectfully with your colleagues in class. Take loads of notes from your readings. Look up words you don't understand. Ask questions. Think critically about the world around you. Make use of the Q&A Board (the Q&A Board is encouraged, but not required).

Journal Assignments: You will be investigating Race and Ethnic Relations through a wide variety of mediums, including film, music, art, recorded lectures, and critical writing/essays. The intention of the Journals is to engage you deeply with the course content, some of which might be new to you regarding how you understand race and racism. We engage a variety of experiences from multiple perspectives, so you should expect to be challenged. Stay open to learning new things and different ways of thinking about the world. Journal Assignments *are not editorials, opinion pieces, or space for you to soap box*. Please keep that in mind as you prepare thoughtful and reflective pieces of writing throughout the course material.

Main Discussion Board Assignments: Discussion Boards have you engage course material and work closely together. You are expected to participate in these assignments to generate critical discussion amongst one another. Be aware that some of these require a few days, or even a week, of preparatory work. Make sure you look ahead at your homework. These assignments are always due on Thursdays and Sundays (your initial posts go up Thursdays, and your responses to one another's initial posts are due by Sundays, not necessarily *on* Sunday 😊). Your DBs are graded on two things: your original post and your responses (two of them) to your colleagues' Initial Posts. *You must do both to earn full credit*. Your Initial Important note: Responding to people in your thread is great; you should do it. But you won't get those Response Points for them. You must respond to others' initial posts. Also, when I pop in and engage in the dialogue (I don't always do this, but I will on occasion), it's great to respond to me, but you also do not get points for this. Keep an eye out for my responses; I may be trying to help you improve your grade. If I don't respond, you'll see me "like" your post; I do this to let you know that I am engaged and following along.

Participation Discussion Board Assignments: These are meant to support you throughout the course and are required; the grades get folded into your overall Participation Grade.

Final Research Paper + Incremental Assignments: Throughout the course of the quarter, you will be working on a research paper to do with race in the U.S. You may make this about anything you want. You will submit five assignments for this:

1. Topic
2. Proposal + Annotated Bibliography
3. First Draft + Annotated Bibliography
4. Peer Review
5. Final Submission

More information about this project is in the course handouts area.

For all your written work: Submit proofread work **only**. Work not proofread will be returned **once** for a rewrite, expected to be handed in within 48 hours. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [Academic Tutoring Center](#)

- [TRiO Student Support Services](#)
- [Writing Lab @ BC](#)

Required Writing Guidelines:

This is a checklist for you to go over before you hand in each written assignment.

- Twelve-point sized Times font, double-spaced
- 1" margins all around
- APA Citations where appropriate – credit must be given even where any *ideas* presented in the paper are not your own (see notes below about avoiding plagiarism)
- Title pages and bibliographies are not counted as pages due
- Student information is at the top left of the page, single-spaced
- There are no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Paragraphs contain no less than four sentences.
- Magazines, newspapers, journals, and books are *italicized*. Movie titles, article titles, song titles, etc. are "in quotation marks." Quotes inside of a quotation use 'single quotation marks.'
- Avoid the universal "we," "our," "us" – ask yourself: Can I speak for everyone? If you cannot, do not write it. Avoid phrasing such as "nowadays..." and "since the beginning of time." Be accurate. Know what you're writing and why.
- *Do not use* Wikipedia, CliffNotes, or other such encyclopedic references. Wikipedia is not peer-reviewed and, therefore unreliable. Do your research. If you're going to research online (which is encouraged and legit), make sure you understand what you're looking for. Do a deep dive into the internet to find your stuff.
- Be sure that no more than 20% of your papers are outside sources. You must be providing your analysis while you draw from the material presented to you in class.

Your written work is evaluated on:

- 1) Content
 - a. Fulfilling the entire assignment. Doing the minimum amount of work expected will likely get you a passing grade, but not an outstanding one. You're expected to go the extra mile.
 - b. Fully developing your argument(s) and making use of examples and evidence to support your argument(s).
 - c. Flow of thought throughout the paper, with strong analyses and conclusions.
- 2) Writing Style
 - a. Excellent command of the written English language. In other words, most excellent grammar. **NOTE: If you struggle with grammar and spelling or are an ESL student, please let me know! I'm happy to work with you and point you in the right direction.**
 - b. Clarity of thought.
 - c. Good organization and attention to detail.
 - d. Persuasiveness of your argument/s.
 - e. Creativity. Make it an interesting read!
 - f. PROOFREAD your work. Please do a spell/grammar check before you hand it in. Read it out loud to yourself, too! It helps.

- g. Dude, like totally don't write **colloquially**. A conversation is a conversation. A paper is an entirely different way of presenting your research and ideas. ☺

Preventing Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and attribute borrowed ideas.
- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and doesn't document a source or sources.
- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

Grading:

Please use the following to help explain the grade you receive for a given assignment. Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions you ever have on a grade you receive. There is no limit to how many times you email me! My email door is *always* open, and I'm happy to go over grades with you.

A: 94-100
 A-: 90-93
 B+: 87-89
 B: 84-86
 B-: 80-83
 C+: 77-79
 C: 74-76
 C-: 70-73
 D+: 67-69
 D: 64-66
 D-: 60-63
 F: 59 and below

90-100 = A-Range. "A" work shows me you're engaged with all course material by utilizing quotes and ideas. It is writing **completely free** from grammar and spelling errors, demonstrating your command not only of the English language but the form and flow of a solid piece of written work. I also like to see/read/hear your "writing voice." That is, I want your style to come through! Your arguments should be solid and backed up with intellectual ammunition. You should demonstrate a strong understanding of our readings and the in-class media and how they intersect with one another. Your ideas should be "fleshed out" and not just a series of statements, in other words.

80-89 = B-Range. The “B” tells me you’re doing very good work. You may have a couple of grammar issues, but your work is still tidy, and the writing is still strong. You have a firm grasp on the themes in the course, but you may not be as well-versed in the readings and media and lecture material as you could be. I should see that you’re being challenged and that you’re struggling with the course issues and themes, and what they represent to you in an interconnected way. Your understandings of some of the course materials are stronger than others.

70-79 = C-Range. “C” work means that you’re not as invested in the material as I would like to see. Your writing is relatively weaker than it could be and you’re not thinking as critically as I would like you to. You write the bare minimum of the length requirement. Some of what you point out I may not follow logically, and your use of the course materials may not be as solid as it could be. You omit some of the important points raised in class.

60-69 = D-Range. Ah, the “D.” “D” is for “Don’t be Discouraged.” I will work closely with each of you as much as time allows, getting you up to speed in class. Your struggles should not be with writing so much at this point, but if they are, please see me immediately. “D” work is not proofread, nor does it deal critically with the themes in the course. It responds, perhaps, to one part of one of the readings but there is little-to-no integration of material, and you’re not responding to the questions raised in the assignment. Demonstrated understanding of the course materials is not presented clearly, or at all. (NOTE: A “D” and below may be rewritten **once** if you choose to do so. It must be turned in within 72 hours, and I enter the better grade.)

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

ASSIGNMENTS ARE ALWAYS DUE BY MIDNIGHT

DO NOT WORK AHEAD MORE THAN ONE WEEK

Module One, January 2

Readings:

- [Prezi Presentation on Race by Dr. Sutler-Cohen](#)
 - Give yourself a few hours to go through this. There are multiple videos. You will likely want to break your sessions up into two or three sittings.

Assignments:

- Participation DB I: Introductions & Practice Discussion. Due Sunday, 1/5

Module Two, January 6

Screenings/Videos:

- [Whitewashed: Unmasking the World of Whiteness](#)
- [Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible](#)
- [America Has Been Divided Since the Beginning.' One Author on Why Educating Kids About Race in the U.S. Is More Important Than Ever](#)

Assignments:

- Main DB I: Getting Comfortable Talking about Race. Due Thursday, 1/9, responses by Sunday, 1/12
- Journal I: An Introduction to Race as a Concept and Construct. Due Sunday, 1/12
- Incremental Research Assignment I: Topic Submission. Due Sunday 1/12

Module Three, January 13

Readings:

- *Transforming Understanding of the Native American Experience* by Julian Siggers

Film Screenings:

- [*Half of Anything*](#) by Jonathan Tomhave (Director)
- [*American Indian Studies Playlist*](#) (see Journal 3 instructions)

Assignments:

- Main DB 2: Initial Submission Due Thursday, 1/16; Responses Due Sunday, 1/19
- Journal 2: American Indians and the Concept of Privilege. Due Sunday 1/19

Module Four, January 20

Readings:

- Nguyen, Mimi T. (2012). Riot Grrrl, Race, and Revival. *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory*, 22(2-3), 173-196. (Note that I've uploaded the entire journal for you in case you want to read more. You are only required to read Nguyen's article.)
- Cottom, Tressie McMillan. (9/19/2013). When Your (Brown) Body is a (White) Wonderland. Retrieved from <http://tressiemc.com/2013/08/27/when-your-brown-body-is-a-white-wonderland/>

Films:

- Spooner, J. (Producer) & Spooner, J. (Director). (2003). [*Afro-Punk: The Movie*](#). US: Afro-Punk Productions.
- Anderson, S. et. al (Producer), & Anderson, S. (Director). (2013). [*The Punk Singer*](#). US: Sundance Selects.

Assignments:

- Participation DB 2: More discussions about race – a check-in. Due Sunday, 1/26
- Incremental Research Assignment 2: Draft Proposal, Two Annotated Bibliographies, Working Bibliography due Sunday 1/26

Module Five, January 27

Study Week

Assignments:

- Use this time to work on gathering research and working on your next Incremental Assignment. I will have scheduled Live Sessions throughout the week for meeting with anyone who wants to discuss their research paper.

Module Six, February 3

Readings:

- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. (May 21, 2014). "The Case for Reparations: Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole." Retrieved from: <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- Listen to the interview with Coates on NPR's *All Things Considered*: <http://www.npr.org/2014/05/23/315279271/the-atlantics-ta-nehisi-coates-builds-a-case-for-reparations>

- Watch the interview with Coates on Moyer's & Company:
<http://billmoyers.com/episode/facing-the-truth-the-case-for-reparations/>
 1. Explore the "Dig Deeper" areas below the video player on the Moyer's page.

Assignments:

- Journal 3: The Case for Reparations. Due Sunday 2/9
- Participation DB 3: Sharing Topics. Due Sunday, 2/9

Module Seven, February 10

Readings:

- Explore [*All Look Same: Examination of Asian Experience in America*](#). Review in the following order:
 1. Read the About section
 2. Go back to Home and scroll down the Exam Room.
 - Take each exam, *in order*. There are eight exams. Note down your score for each.
 3. Go to Blog and choose any three blogs to read. Jot down a few notes for each.

Film:

- The Slanted Screen by Jeff Adachi (2010)

Assignments:

- Main DB 3: All Look Same: Examination of Asian Experience in America & The Slanted Screen. Initial Post due Thursday, 2/13. Responses to at least two colleagues' Initial Posts due Sunday, 2/16.

Module Eight, February 17

Research Week

Required Material:

- Your research

Assignments:

- Incremental Research Assignment 3: PART A: First Draft due to your Assigned Reading Partners Sunday, 2/23 (*no rough drafts, please*). Submit to your partner via email and copy me in the email. I will give you credit only after I've seen you've submitted your paper to your partner. This is the only step you need to take for Part A (see Week Nine).

Module Nine, February 24

Leap Year!

Research Week

Required Materials:

- Your research

Assignments:

- Incremental Research Assignment 3: PART B: Peer Review Form due via email to your Assigned Reading Partners *and me*, Sunday 3/1. Do not send me *your draft*, just the Form.

Module Ten, March 2

Required Materials:

- Your research

Assignments:

- Incremental Research Assignment 4: First Draft, Two Additional Annotated Bibliographies, and Working Bibliography. Due Sunday, 3/8

Module Eleven, March 9

Required Materials:

- Your research

Assignments:

- Participation DB 4: Outro. Due Sunday, 3/15

Final Exams Week: March 18-20

Assignments:

- Final Research Paper due Friday, March 20th. *No late assignments accepted. No exceptions.*

Let's have a wonderful term!