



2019--2020 COURSE SYLLABUS

American Identity: Race, Class and Gender In Contemporary America

Instructor: Ms. Bayze

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Office Hours: MW, 3:17-4

Course Description: This course will focus on the social construction of race, class, gender and identity. In this class, we will examine systems of power, privilege and inequality, and explore the concept of diversity. Students will be encouraged to understand their own identities, and how they have been shaped by the concepts of race, class and gender in our society. Students will learn how to deconstruct the systems of power, inequality and injustice in our society, questioning why racism, classism and sexism exist and persist. We will study current issues to get an even deeper look into America today, while also giving students tools to explore and question ideas of social justice and social change.

I. Classroom Procedures and Activities

- A. **Warm-Ups** –Each day, we will begin class with a warm-up question. Answers will be short response (3-5 sentences).
- B. **Lecture/Notes** – Chapters will be supplemented and/or summarized with lecture. You are required to participate in taking notes. Chapter tests will be open-note depending on student behavior (see Classroom Behavior and Expectations).
- C. **Reading & Written Response** – Students will be expected to read from a variety of sources, including the textbook, excerpts from other books, articles, newspapers, etc. Students are expected to keep up with the reading and be prepared to discuss it in class on a regular basis.
- D. **In-Class Activities** – Chapters will be accompanied by a variety of activities. These will include, but not be limited to: timelines, graphs, maps, presentations, skits, group work, debates, discussions, quickwrites, essays, etc.
- E. **Group Projects** – Group projects will occur during each grading period. Group projects will be graded on an individual as well as a group basis. Some projects will require research outside of the classroom.
- F. **Participation** – It is required that you participate in this class. Regular participation is necessary to make this class interesting. Be prepared to speak in class *at least* 3 times a week.

II. Student Work

- A. **Late Work/ Make-Up Work** –You are responsible for coming to get your make-up work from me. To get work that you missed OR to ask about your grade, I am available:
 - i. Mondays & Wednesdays: 3:17-4pm



- ii. Tuesdays & Thursdays: Lunch

Acceptance of late work will depend upon the assignment; however, I will accept most work late for partial credit. No late work for the quarter will be accepted after the following dates:

- iii. First Quarter: 10/25/2019
- iv. First Semester: 1/10/2020
- v. Third Quarter: 3/27/2020
- vi. Second Semester: 5/29/2020

- B. Extra Credit** – Extra credit opportunities may arise throughout the year; however, they will be determined by class behavior. Do not expect enough extra credit to raise your grade from failing to passing.
- C. Notebook** – It is expected that you will have a spiral notebook or a folder that you will keep all of your work in for this class. This will be used for this class alone, and you will need to leave it in class. You are expected to keep all of your assignments, notes and graded work. If a mistake is ever made in grading, you will be required to show me the *graded* work before I will change the mistake in the grading system. Notebook checks will occur every 2-3 weeks. You will be given 1 weeks' notice to get your notebook in order. You will be allowed 1 (ONE) late notebook check per semester, but otherwise, notebooks will NOT be accepted late.

III. Grading Policy

- A. Grading Scale** – All letter grades will be determined be based on the following grading scale. A curve will not be used.

- 100%-90% = A
- 89%-80% = B
- 79%-70% = C
- 69%-60% = D
- 59% and below = F

IV. Classroom Behavior and Expectations

- A. Be Prepared** – I will provide lined paper, pencils, etc. in limited quantities. I suggest coming to class prepared with your own supplies, just in case I have run out. If you need to borrow supplies, please take care of getting what you need before class starts and not during class time.
- B. Plagiarism** - Never, ever, ever copy someone else's work and turn it in as your own. You will receive an immediate zero on the assignment and you will not be able to make it up.
- C. Be Prompt** – Students must be in the classroom and in their seats when the bell rings. A note from another teacher or an administrator will excuse a tardy.
- D. Be Positive** – I expect positive attitudes in my classroom. "I can't" is not an excuse for laziness. Do your work, try your best. You can and you will. I expect you to always work your hardest. Turning in work that you are not proud of is unacceptable.



- E. Be Polite** – Always be respectful, polite, helpful and honest with your peers and with me. I will respect you, and I expect you to respect me. When I am talking, you are not. When you are talking, others are not.
- F. Be Productive** - There will not be excessive homework in this class. Most homework will be classwork that you did not finish while in class. Use your time wisely and productively and you will rarely have to do work outside of the classroom.
- G. Always Ask** – If you have questions, do not ever hesitate to come and ask me. I am here to help you do your best, but I cannot help you if you don't let me know that you need help.
- H. Food or Drink** – Aside from water, please keep all food and drink in your backpack during class.
- I. Cell Phones/ Electronics** – Please put your cell phones/ electronic devices on silent before class starts. Also, please take headphones out of your ears.
- J. Bathroom** – You may use the bathroom after the first 15 minutes or prior to the final 15 minutes of class. You will be given **eight** bathroom passes to be used over the semester. If you choose not to use your passes, each one of them is worth 5 extra credit points (for up to 40 points).
- K. Remember: We are all human!** Everyone in this class has good days and bad days (including me!). Everyone makes mistakes. Let's agree to treat each other with respect, kindness, compassion and forgiveness.

***Note: Any part of this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.**

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