

SC 255  
Summer Semester 2013-ONLINE  
Email: [gvaquera@jcu.edu](mailto:gvaquera@jcu.edu)  
Telephone: 397-4379

Professor: Dr. Gloria Vaquera  
Office: Administration bldg. 334  
Online- Chat availability  
Tues. & Wed. 9:30 – 11:00 p.m.  
& Mondays – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

## SC255 Prejudice and Discrimination

### **Description**

The problem of prejudice in American society will be addressed through study of discrimination, racism, inequality, cultural diversity, pluralism, and other related concepts. How can we understand the social processes that create categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and class? How are groups of people named, aggregated, dichotomized, stigmatized, and redefined into systems of inequality? How can oppressive processes be interrupted and redefined to eliminate human oppression? This course qualifies as a diversity course "D" within the core curriculum.

### **Texts and Readings**

The Meaning of Difference: American Constructions of Race, Sex and Gender, Social Class, and Sexual Orientation, 6th Edition by: Karen E. Rosenblum, George Mason University & Toni-Michelle C. Travis, George Mason University. Additional readings as listed on the schedule available on Blackboard under course documents.

### **Course Requirements and Expectations**

Due to the sensitivity of the material in this course, all students must conduct themselves in a respectable manner. At no time will rude, insensitive or hostile behavior or language be tolerated. We will undoubtedly encounter material that is unsettling to you. With this in mind, please direct your comments or criticism to the materials presented

- **Blackboard:** Students must have access to a high speed internet connection that allows to viewing of large files, such as powerpoints and movie clips. All course interaction (discussions, quizzes, submission of assignments, grades, videos, etc.) will be conducted through Blackboard
- **Participation:** All students are expected to participate in the **discussion threads** posted for each reading. Comments must be posted **by 10:00 p.m.** on the assigned date of the reading.
- **Plagiarism:** All work submitted for evaluation in this course, including tests and terms papers must represent only the work of the student unless indicated otherwise. Any student caught copying the work of others will automatically fail this course and a written report of the incident will be filed with the Academic Dean.
- **Special Arrangements:** John Carroll University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please contact Linda Meeks (Director) at 216-397-4963 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive, so it is best to register at your earliest convenience.

### **Components of the Course**

- **Discussion Threads-** Students are expected to respond to questions pertaining to the assigned reading for that day. Points will be awarded for thoughtful and thorough responses. Partial point for incomplete responses.

▪ **Paper On Statuses**

In the first part of the course, each student will write a 4 to 5 page paper regarding the various statuses that he/she experience. This is a personal paper and will require no additional research other than referring to stages of identity development as discussed in the text. A set of instructions and questions to answer will be posted on Black Board under course documents.

▪ **Paper on an Social Movement**

In the later part of the course, you will select a social movement that focuses on one of the marginalized populations we have discussed in the class (gender, sexual orientation, race, class, or disability). Your paper will focus on the history and current status of this movement and include one sociological study that addresses discrimination or bias that this community experiences. Additionally you will reflect on the final readings of the text and identify three strategies that college students can engage to improve the status of the group in question. Length of paper: 5 to 7 pages. A set of instructions will be posted on Black Board under course documents.

▪ **Tests & Final Exam-**

All tests and exam contain a portion of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Exams are done online using Blackboard and are timed.

▪ **Extra Credit**

For extra credit, you may review selected documentaries and/or movies which will be listed in Blackboard under the assignments tab. To obtain extra credit you will write a reflection paper summarizing key points of the documentary or movie and **how this relates to our course. Be sure to integrate material from our readings into your reflection.** Your response should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length, double spaced, 12 font max., with one inch margins. A well written thoughtful reflection paper will be worth 2 points. Extra credit can be turned in at any point in the semester but must be submitted prior to the final exam.

Course Components to Calculate Grade	Pts	%	Grading Scale
Test 1	50	23%	100%-94%=A
Test 2	50	23%	93%-90%=A-
Paper on Statuses	25	11%	89%-88%=B+
Paper on Social Movements	25	11%	87%-84%=B
Discussion Threads	21	10%	83%-80%=B-
Final Exam	50	23%	79%-78%=C+
Total Points Available*	221		77%-74%=C
• This is an approximate total open to changes			73%-70%=C-
			69%-68%=D+
			67%-64%=D
			63%-60%=D-
Extra Credit: You may turn in up to 3 extra credit reflection papers - 2 pts each.			59% and below=F

## Reading Schedule

Week 1		
Introductions - Review of theories of prejudice and discrimination & Framework Essay --	Reading 2 Davis, Who is Black? One Nation's Definition; 3. Washington Post, The Evolution of Identity; 4. Garrouette, Real Indians; 5. Espiritu, Asian American Panethnicity;	6. Frankenberg, Whiteness as an 'Unmarked' Cultural Category ; 7. Lee & Bean, America's Changing Color Lines: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Multicultural Identification; 8. Tehranian, "From Friendly Foreigner to Enemy Race" ;
Week 2		
10. Dreger "Where's The Rulebook for Sex Verification." 11. Wilchins: "All Together Now: Intersex Infants and IGM; 15. Lancaster, "The Biology of the Homosexual." 17. Rochlin, "The Heterosexual Questionnaire."	12. What's Class got to do with it?, Michael Zweig, 13. The Economist: "More or Less Equal"; 14. McNee and Miller, "The Silver Spoon." 18. Oliver, "Disability Definitions" 19. Mundy, "A World of their own" 20. Lane, "Ethnicity, Ethics, and the Deaf-World";	<b>SC255 Test 1</b>
Week 3		
STATUS PAPER DUE Section II. Experiencing Difference -- Framework Essay II; 21. Suarez-Orozco, "Formulating Identity..." 22. Rodriguez, "Latinos in the U.S. Race Structure."	25. Beneke, "Proving manhood" 26. Hamilton and Armstrong, "Gendered Society in Young Adulthood";27. Seidman, "Beyond the closet" 28. Pascoe, "Due, You're a Fag." 29. Rothblum, "Sexual Orientation and Sex in Women's Lives."	30. Lareau and Weininger, "Class and the Transition" 31. Reuss, "Cause of Death" 32. Larew Why Are Doves of Unqualified, Unprepared Kids Getting into Our Top Colleges? 35. Omansky, "Not Blind Enough" 40. Hockenberry, Public Transit
Week 4		
<b>SC255 Test 2</b>	<b>Framework Essay III;</b> 36. Gladwell, "Blink in Black and White" 37. Bronson, "See Baby Discriminate" 38. Wise, "Between Barack and a hard place" 40. England, " The Gender Revolution"	41 Thirteen Supreme Court Cases and the Civil War Amendments; 42. Carr and Kutty, "Segregation" 43. Brewer and Adamson, " Land Rich, Dirt Poor" 44. Pratt, "Crossing the color Line"
Week 5		
<b>Social Movements Paper Due</b> Plaindealer Article - on Blackboard 46. Harris and Carbado, "Loot and Find". Framework Essay IV , 49. Collins, "Lilly's Big Day"	51. Cogan, "Influencing Public Policy." 52. Johnson- What can we do? Becoming part of the solution 54. Kivel- Uprooting Racism: How White People can work for racial justice,	<b>Final Exam</b>