**Course Description**

This course is intended to introduce students to the social diversity in the United States as reflected in key identities that set unifying elements and cleavages in American society, including race, ethnicity, sex, gender, social class, sexuality, and disability. The course examines how these identities are socially constructed and the impact they have on group members and society in general.

**Course Objectives**

* Become better informed and more insightful on how categories of difference are created, the experience of difference, the meanings that are assigned to difference, and what people can do to challenge or change these constructions of difference
* Engage readings and your colleagues in meaningful discussion
* Develop ability to summarize, compare and contrast, evaluate and analyze texts, identify themes within them, and use evidence to support arguments about identity issues

**Required Texts**

There is one required book for the course and you can purchase/rent it through the Temple bookstore or through a third-party such as Amazon:

Rosenblum, Karen E. and Toni-Michelle C. Travis. 2015. *The Meaning of Difference: American Construction of Race and Ethnicity, Sex and Gender, Social Class, Sexuality, and Disability.* Seventh Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Note: Please make sure to get the seventh edition of the textbook.

Any additional course readings will be provided on Canvas.

**Course Grade**

The course grade for this course will be determined per the following formula:

Attendance 10 points

Participation 10 points

Quizzes 20 points (2 at 10 points each)

Response Papers 40 points (10 at 4 points each)

Final Exam 20 points

100 points

The grading scale for this course will be as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Grade** | **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Grade** | **Letter Grade** | **Numerical Grade** |
| A | 92.5% and higher | B- | 80.0% – 82.49% | D+ | 67.5% - 69.99% |
| A- | 90.0% – 92.49% | C+ | 77.5% – 79.99% | D | 62.5% - 67.49% |
| B+ | 87.5%– 89.99% | C | 72.5% - 77.49% | D- | 60.0% - 62.49% |
| B | 82.5% – 87.49% | C- | 70.0% - 72.49% | F | 59.99% and lower |

**Attendance – 10%**

Attendance is very important to your success in this course. Attendance will be taken each class. Absences may only be excused with medical or appropriate documentation. Regardless of the reason for missing class, students will be responsible for obtaining any content missed.

**Participation – 10%**

Participation is also key to your success in this course. Active participation requires being prepared and on-time for class each day, staying through the full class period, and acting in a professional manner. I expect you to participate in class discussions and ask questions about the material. Active engagement in any class activities is also a must.

**Quizzes – 20%**

Through the course there will be two short quizzes (each worth 10 points each) after the Week 2 and Week 4 lessons are completed. These are meant to check that students are reading, understanding the key points of the material, and following along with the class discussions. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Students are required to complete one response paper (each worth 4 points) for each class over the course of the semester. These response papers will require you to expand class discussions and course readings through written response. All response papers are due as indicated in the course schedule.  These responses should summarize each topic section that was assigned for the lesson, and analyze the main themes and arguments of the reading. Each response paper should be around 250 words for each topic (set of readings), single-spaced, and with normal font (12 point, Times New Roman) and also include two questions pertaining to the readings. These can be clarifying questions, or critically analyze certain areas of the text that seem important for class discussion. Each response paper should be proofread, clear, and concise. Response papers will be submitted on Canvas before class the day that they are due. Late response papers will be penalized 1 point for each day they are late. One response paper with the lowest score will be dropped from the final grade calculation. Questions should be posted to the discussion board on Canvas, so they will be available to all during class.

**Final Exam – 20%**

The final exam must be submitted by Thursday August 6, by 11:59pm. The exam will consist several short answer and essay questions. We will discuss the final exam in more detail in the classes leading up to the exam.

All readings should be completed BEFORE the day they are listed on the syllabus.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topics** | **Readings** | **Assignments and Notes** |
| 1 | 6/23 | Introduction to the Course / Constructing Categories of Difference | Pages 1-44 | No HW response for this class |
|  | 6/25 | What is Race? What is Ethnicity? | Readings 2, 3, 4, 7 | Response 1 due 6/24 by 11:59pm |
| 2 | 6/30 | What is Sex? What is Gender? /  What is Social Class? | Readings 9, 10, 11  Readings 12, 13, 14 | Response 2 due 6/29 by 11:59pm |
|  | 7/2 | What is Sexuality? /  What is Disability? | Readings 15, 16, 17,  Readings 18, 20 | Response 3 due 7/1 by 11:59pm |
| 3 | 7/7 | Race and Ethnicity /  Sex and Gender | Readings 22, 23, 24  Readings 26, 27 | **Quiz 1 due 7/6 by 11:59pm** Response 4 due 7/6 by 11:59pm |
|  | 7/9 | Sexuality /  Social Class / | Readings 28,30 Readings 31, 33 | Response 5 due 7/6 by 11:59pm |
| 4 | 7/14 | Disability / Race and Ethnicity / | Readings 34 ,36  Readings 38, 40, 41, 42 | Response 6 due 7/13 by 11:59pm |
|  | 7/16 | Sex and Gender | Readings 44, 45 | Response 7 due 7/15 by 11:59pm |
| 5 | 7/21 | Sexuality | Readings 46, 48 | **Quiz 2 due 7/20 by 11:59pm**  Response 8 due 7/20 by 11:59pm |
|  | 7/23 | Social Class | Readings 49, 50, 51 | Response 9 due 7/22 by 11:59pm |
| 6 | 7/28 | Disability | Readings 52, 53 | Response 10 due 7/27 by 11:59pm |
|  | 7/30 | Bridging Differences / Final Exam Review | Readings 56, 58 | Response 11 due 7/29 by 11:59pm |
| 7 | 8/4 |  |  |  |
|  | 8/6 | Final Exam |  | **Final Exam due 8/6 by 11:59pm** |
| **FINAL EXAM:** Due Thursday, August 6 before 11:59pm | | | | |