

GSS 1044001: Diversity Issues

Fall 2004

Instructor Information: Rodger L. Jackson, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00-3:00, and by appointment.

Course Description: This course is designed to involve students in a semester-long discussion about the nature of diversity in the United States. It will cover contemporary and historical perspectives on three of the most significant elements of our diverse society: gender, race, and religion. Students will employ and develop argumentative strategies and research skills necessary for success in college and beyond.

Texts:

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman (Abbreviated as SPIRIT)

In addition to this text there will be numerous readings posted on the Web CT site for this course, which you will be responsible for.

Course Objectives:

1. Broaden knowledge of unfamiliar cultures.
2. Develop a more informed perspective on issues of race, gender, and religion, both at the theoretical and factual level.
3. Gain new experiences about the nature of our diverse society through the service learning component and interactions with others in the course.
4. Deepen engagement or develop engagement with another cultural group.
5. Reflect on each diversity area encountered and record the reflections and development of personal perspectives in each area.
6. Listen to different views and weigh the merits and demerits of different views on issues of diversity.
7. Analyze and evaluate the ideas presented in the course via the experiences gained in interactions with colleagues, professors, and the individuals at the service learning site.

Evaluation:

- a) Three reflection papers on cultural mentoring experiences (25 pts. each)
- b) Ten quizzes on the readings (7 pts. each)
- c) Library Assignment (20 pts.)
- c) Four response papers to the guest speakers (20 pts. each)
- d) An in-class presentation incorporating insights on diversity gained from cultural mentor process readings, lectures and discussions. (35 points)
- e) A portfolio of your semester's work (50 points)

Grading Scale:

330 points total

305330 A

300-304 A-

297-299 B+

274297 B

270-273 B-

267-269 C+

244266 C

240-243 C-

236-239 D+

213235 D

210-212 D-

I reserve the right to bump up a grade if a student on the borderline has shown significant improvement, regular attendance, or thoughtful, consistent participation.

Library Assignment

On Sept 20, we will be attending a presentation on Information Literacy at the Stockton library. At that point you will receive a Research Strategies Workbook which contains a set of assignments which need to be completed by Oct 4.

Reflection Papers

There will be three different papers (2-3 pages) detailing your experiences in the cultural mentoring process. I will hand out sheets that will spell out exactly what is required for each of these papers as the term progresses.

Quizzes

At ten different points in the term, there will be a quiz that will cover material from the readings. At the beginning of the week in which there's going to be a quiz I will hand out a list of questions. That Friday or the following Monday, I will present you with one of those questions and you'll have about fifteen to twenty minutes to write out your response in class.

Response Papers to the Speakers

Each time we have a speaker(s), we will try to devote the next class session to discussing and evaluating the presentation. Then on the next class period you'll hand in a response paper (2-3 pages) that addresses an issue raised by the speaker and our analysis of their talk. There are five speakers, but you are only required to do four response papers.

Inclass presentation

At the end of the term you will each do an in class presentation, tying together material from the readings, the speakers, the lectures, and your experiences with your cultural mentor.

Portfolio

Each student will put together a portfolio which will include the following:

- a) 4 of your reflective writing pieces. You choose what you take to be your four strongest pieces.
- b) Final Portfolio Preface/Conclusion (about 2 pages): This is the writing that will frame your work and progress as learner and student of diversity for your final evaluation
- c) Throughout the term I will periodically ask you to make copies of articles on issues on diversity that you have found compelling. These articles will be included as part of this portfolio.
- d) The written version of your in class presentation.
- e) Summary of your cultural mentoring experience.
- f) Any other materials you found interesting throughout the term

Attendance

While it is an expectation that each student attend every class, and while I do take attendance, it is not explicitly part of the evaluation criteria for the course. However, as I said above, if a student is on the borderline, I reserve the right to take into account their attendance in deciding whether to boost them up to the next highest grade.

TENTATIVE Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments Covering Sept 8- Nov 1

At the beginning of each week, I will tell you exactly what readings we will be covering that week, whether there will be a quiz, and when your response or reflection papers are due.

Sept 8: Meet each other, attend service learning informational lecture, go over syllabus and plan for the class.

Sept 10: Meet in Stockton Library E 221 to go over computer WEB CT training session. Begin reading *Middlesex Part I*.

September 13: **Cultural autobiography assignment due at beginning of class.**

Begin discussion of chapters 1-3 of *Spirit Catches You* and the pages 3-40 of *Middlesex Part I*.

September 15: Continue discussion of *Spirit* and *Middlesex*

September 17: **First Quiz for *Spirit Catches You* covering Chapters 1-3.**

September 20: MEET IN LIBRARY. We'll be in the library for an orientation of utilizing the Stockton library. On this day you'll be given a Research Strategies Workbook which you'll need to complete. Begin reading Chapters 4-6 of *Spirit* and pages 40-76 of *Middlesex Part I*.

September 22: Discussion of *Spirit* and *Middlesex*

September 24: **Second quiz for *Spirit Catches You* over Chapters 4-6.**

Sept 27: Presentation by Dr. Beth Paul. Begin reading Chapter 7-9 of *Spirit Catches You* and pages 401-459 of *Middlesex Part IV*.

Sept 29: Discussion of presentation by Beth Paul and continue discussion of *Spirit* and *Middlesex* **Research Strategies Workbook due today**

Oct 1: **Quiz #3 over Chapters 7-9 of *Spirit Catches You*.**

Complete reading of *Middlesex* over the weekend in preparation for talk by Jeffrey Eugenides on Monday October 4.

OCTOBER 4: 8:00 P.M. Presentation by Jeffrey Eugenides at Lakeside Center

October 6: Discussion of presentation by Jeffrey Eugenides and *Middlesex*

October 8: **Paper on Eugenides Presentation due**

October 11: **Quiz #4 on Chapter 10 of *Spirit Catches You***

October 13: Presentation by Margaret Stump on transgender issues.

October 15: Discussion of Margaret Stump presentation

October 18: Presentation by Beth Paul on race. **Paper on Margaret Stump presentation due**

October 20: See film, "Race: the power of an illusion" Part one. Begin reading *NY Times series: How Race is Lived in America* and *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*

October 22: See film, "Race: the power of an illusion" Part two

Oct 25: **Quiz #5 on Chapters 11 & 12 of *Spirit Catches You***. Discuss presentation by Beth Paul. *NY Times series: How Race is Lived in America* and *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*

Oct 27: **Response paper to Beth Paul due today**

Oct 29: **Trip to Ellis Island**

November 10-14

Read selections from *Healing By Heart: Clinical and Ethical Case Stories of Hmong Families and Western Providers*, by Dorothy Vawter

November 17-21

Attend presentation by Dorothy Vawter, with follow up discussion

November 24-26

YOUR THIRD REFLECTION PAPER WILL BE DUE THIS WEEK

There will be **NO CLASS** on November 29 (the day after Thanksgiving)

December 15

Attend presentation by Edgar Beckham, Senior Fellow at AACU with follow up discussion.

December 818

In class presentations