

Ethnicity, Gender, Class & the Media

JLMC 477 – Course Syllabus

Spring 2008

Contact Information

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During the week I will be checking emails regularly and you can expect a prompt response to questions or issues you may have. However, if you send a message Friday night, Saturday or Sunday do not expect an immediate reply.

Course Overview

Using theory, critical analysis techniques and your own experiences with race, gender and class we will examine the link between media representations, institutional practices and how closely these images reflect reality. Course topics will include but are not limited to:

- Analyzing images projected in the media of race, ethnicity, gender and class.
- How these images affect/reflect American audiences
- How images of diverse groups have changed over time and why

Course Materials

- www.understandingprejudice.org
- www.commercialcloset.org
- Consistent attendance and careful notes of lectures, discussions and class activities.
- Handouts
- Additional assignments and readings as announced in class.
- WebCT

Offensive Material

During this course you may be exposed to material that some persons might consider offensive. While I cannot anticipate what may or may not offend individuals, I will do my best to inform the class of this material before it is shown. You will have the right to be excused for that portion of the class period and given an alternative assignment. This will be considered on an individual basis. In addition, we will be discussing topics that may be sensitive including race, racism, gender representations, sexuality and class hierarchy. Difference of opinion and viewpoint is to be expected. Respect for all members of the class is also expected.

Point Allocations

Attendance	=	50 points
Quiz	=	25 points
Comic Strip	=	25 points
Magazine Self Analysis	=	50 points
Privilege Paper	=	50 points
Midterm Analysis	=	100 points
Group Presentation	=	100 points
Final Analysis Paper	=	200 points
Total		600 points

Coursework:

Attendance- Course pedagogy is based on two-way communication including small/large group discussions and peer to peer led discussion. When attendance and active participation are missing, learning (as well as your grade) is diminished. In-class work missed due to absence is not eligible for a make-up. Homework must be turned in prior to an excused absence if possible. A request to excuse an absence due to illness, family death or personal issues must be submitted in writing (e-mail is not acceptable) by the next class period, officially documented and an appointment must be made to speak with the instructor regarding the absence. Points for attendance will be awarded as a percentage of classes attended over the semester and is subject to participation at the instructor's discretion.

Quiz- Individual. Theory and concept focused. The article and class discussion focused.

Comic Strip- Pairs/Visual Presentation.

Magazine Self Analysis- Individual/Paper. Students will complete a written assignment analyzing a magazine.

Privilege Analysis- Individual/Paper. Students will analyze the privileges they have in their lives. In addition, a discussion on how these privileges have impacted them as children, adolescent and a young adult. This is to include self-reflection, using theories and concepts introduced in class, and independent research (personal media use & family impact).

Midterm Analysis- Individual/Paper. This will be a depiction analysis of a film to be presented in class.

Group Presentations- Team/Peer to peer instruction. Each group will teach an assigned topic to their classmates. In addition, each team will lead a discussion engaging the class and have one in-class

Final Analysis Paper- Individual/Paper. The class will be presented a media message and write an analysis and critique term paper.

A	564 – 600
A-	540 – 563
B+	525 – 539
B	504 – 524
B-	480 – 503
C+	465 – 479
C	444 – 464
C-	420 – 443
D+	405 – 419
D	384 – 404
D-	360 – 383
Fail	359 – Below

Course Policies:

- Grading: For a **C**, assignments must be completed with reasonable accuracy as specified by the assignment requirements. The writing will be relatively free of grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. You will show a basic understanding and appropriate application of theories and concepts. For a **B**, your assignments will meet the requirements for a “C” and your writing will be free of grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. In addition, you need to demonstrate complete understanding of theories/concepts and thoughtful analysis, insight and personal perspective. For an **A**, you will meet the requirements for a “B” and incorporate independent research to support your conclusions and opinions.
- Information prepared and delivered by a guest speaker, documentaries, video and assignments are open to use in quizzes and tests.

- *You* are responsible for all notes, handouts and assigned readings. If an emergency requires your absence from class, it is up to you get notes and materials from a fellow classmate. I suggest getting to know each other and exchanging phone numbers. Please notify me in advance if you'll be missing class.
- Professional courtesy to your classmates requires that all personal communication devices be turned off or set to silent before entering class. This includes cell phones, pagers, gaming devices, email/instant messaging on computers. Do not answer calls or text during class.
- Using computers to take notes is allowed until it is demonstrated to the instructor this privilege is being abused by instant messages, surfing the Internet, playing games and all other non-class related uses. It is the instructor's discretion to ban the use of computers unless otherwise approved by the Student Disabilities Resources Office.
- **Late homework assignments will be reduced by one letter grade. Homework will not be accepted once graded papers have been handed back. In-class assignments cannot be completed at a later date for unexcused absences.** It is your responsibility to make immediate arrangements to make-up work. This will be allowed at the discretion of the instructor.
- Computer problems and crashed disks are **not** valid reasons for late work. If a medical emergency arises, you must notify and provide verification in order to be excused and eligible to schedule make-up work (this does not extend to in-class assignments).
- Please keep copies of all your completed work in your server folder. This includes keeping all graded work handed back to you. You must be able to provide these documents if requested by the instructor.
- If you have questions or difficulties in this course, see me **immediately**. I am more than happy to work with you. If you wait until the end of the semester you drastically reduce my opportunities to help you.
- In accordance with Greenlee School policy, all academic dishonesty will result in a failure in this course and University penalties. In this course, plagiarism includes but is not limited to: borrowing another person's ideas without acknowledgement; using paraphrased material without attribution; not citing quoted material; copying from any source and presenting the work as your own; downloading and using as your own sentences, paragraphs and entire documents off the Internet; using anyone someone else to complete or fulfill course requirements.

University Policies:

- Iowa State University complies with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students seeking accommodation need to have documentation approved by Student Disability Resources located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-7220. Please provide a SAAR form to the instructor as soon as possible or a minimum of one week prior to the first exam, quiz or test so accommodations can be made. Appointments can be made to discuss your needs if privacy is an issue.
- Plagiarism (literary or artistic), copying someone else's work without attribution or other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will result in a failing grade for the course. As required, cases of dishonesty will be reported to the Director or Associate Director of the School and the university's Dean of Student's Office for disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student and Faculty Handbooks.

Course Schedule: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to adjust the sequence or topics as appropriate.

Week #1: Introduction to the course & Class Norms for Discussion

Week #2: Class/Privilege & Media

Week #3: Ethnicity/Race & Media

Week #4: Gender/Sex & Media

Week #5: Depiction Analysis

Week #6: Sexuality & Media

Week #7: Institutional Racism

Week #8: Ingroup/Outgroup

Week #9: Ingroup/Outgroup

Week #10: Spring Break

Week #11: Group Presentations

Week #12: Group Presentations

Week #13: Group Presentations

Week #14: Murderball

Week #15: Ethics & Consumer Responsibility

Week #16: Final Paper Preparation

Mon., December 10, 9:45am - Final Paper Due

Guidelines for discussion¹

1. Remember that all reasonable people can and do disagree.
2. Each person deserves respect and deserves to be heard.
3. Tolerance and patience are required of all.
4. Expect to offend and be offended. Forgive yourself and your classmates in advance.
5. Respect the courage of some who share things we may find highly objectionable. We may learn the most from their comments.
6. Understand the rules for civil discourse may need to be negotiated on individual, group, and class levels (e.g., gender-linked and race-linked styles of communication may need to be considered as they come up).
7. Acknowledge that all racial/ethnic groups have accomplishments their members can be proud of and misdeeds they should not be proud of.
8. Each person can only be held accountable for what he or she has done. She or he cannot be held accountable for what ancestors or relatives have done.
9. Each person should understand the privileges that he or she has in the U.S. based on skin color or other social assets like class, gender, level of education, etc.
10. "Equality" between and among you should be the norm.
11. Communicate with the assumption that racism, and other forms of oppression, exist in the U.S.
12. Agree not to blame others or ourselves for misinformation that we have learned in the past; instead assume responsibility for not repeating it once we have learned otherwise.
13. Avoid making generalizations of individuals based on their group membership.
14. Resist placing the extra burden of "racial spokesperson" or "expert" on anyone.
15. Do not verbally interrupt the person who is speaking. Use an appropriate gesture to let it be known you have an idea.
16. Do not assume you know what the speaker is saying; when something is unclear ask questions.
17. Be concise in your statements and be considerate of the classroom's time.
18. During the course of the class there will be a five-minute break, when timing is appropriate.
19. Do not make personal attacks.
20. Be open-minded and empathize with what the speaker is saying.
21. Do not assume that what the person is saying is necessarily what they believe.
22. Expect to get your feelings hurt - forgive each person at the beginning of class.
23. Do not assume that one person that may represent a group is the spokesperson for the group.
24. Own your opinions and statements with "I" or "me" - do not cop out on your point.