CROSS CURRENTS: THINKING ABOUT RACE

STOKES S213, TUESDAYS 4:30 PM

Facilitators: Karl V. Bell
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Office Hours: By Appointment

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SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

The Cross Currents: Thinking about Race seminar explores the concept of race; the effects of race on individuals; the presentation and negotiation of race in society; and the role of race at Boston College. The topics covered in the course are not only important, but also complex and provocative. The seminar is an opportunity to have candid conversations with others who are also exploring race and its effects in society. The seminar will help develop your understanding of what these topics mean to you personally and intellectually through discussions with other students.

SEMINAR GOALS

1. To help students understand the complexity of race in society and at Boston College.
2. To increase students’ comfort and competence with difficult conversations about race at Boston College.
3. To help students gauge and understand the role of race in their lives.
4. To help students contextualize their reading and research assignments on race.

SEMINAR LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. As a result of completing the Cross Currents Seminar on race, students will be able to define and discuss race.
2. Students enrolled in the Cross Currents Seminar on race will be able to give a twelve minute group presentation on race.
3. Students enrolled in the Cross Currents Seminar on race will complete five reflection papers on race.
4. Students enrolled in the Cross Currents Seminar on race will lead one class discussion on race.
5. As a result of taking the Cross Currents Seminar on race, students will integrate their learning from the partner course.
6. Students enrolled in the Cross Currents Seminar on race, will attend three outside of class lectures on race.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:

Learning in this seminar is dependent on class discussion. Attendance is extremely important. You are expected to be prepared for the seminar and to arrive on time. If you must miss the seminar, please alert me as soon as possible. Excessive absences will affect your participation and your ability to pass the seminar.

Class Participation:

You are expected to contribute to the success of the seminar through discussion and seminar assignments. You are also expected to use the knowledge and understanding that you have gained through your other courses/experience to contribute to the learning of your classmates. You should also be aware of current events that center of race and be prepared to discuss these events in the seminar.

Definition of Race:

One of the goals of this seminar is to increase your comfort with and competence in discussions of race. In order to meet this goal, we need to first define race and determine what exactly we mean when we use the word race. Define "race," using three to four sentences, or more if needed.

DUE September 14, 2021

Race Relations:

Each member of the Cross Currents: Thinking about Race seminar is responsible for sharing one article, book chapter, media story, etc. with the class. The member should send the article (or other item) to the instructor in advance of class, and be prepared to lead a discussion on the article (or other item) in class. The article, book chapter, media story, etc. should enhance the learning of the class and stimulate discussion and conversation. The item should be scholarly in nature and may come from any source that is deemed scholarly. Members should receive prior instructor approval before planning to share the item in class.

SCHEDULE SET/DECIDED September 07, 2021
Reflection/Reaction Papers:

You are expected to complete four (4) one-page reflection/reaction papers that explore your understanding and response to an assigned course reading. These reflection/reaction papers are required and completion of these papers will be used to determine whether you pass the seminar or not.

DUE September 21st, October 5th, October 26th and November 16th, 2021

Questions for Friends:

In preparation for our session, “Thinking about Race with Friends,” develop five questions to be asked during the session. The questions can be about any topic we have covered, may inquire about perspectives we haven't explored, or may be a lingering question you wish to ask. As you develop your questions, be mindful of the level of exposure to the topic of others. These questions will be used to shape the conversation with our friends and will only be asked of our guests, not members of the class.

DUE November 23, 2021

The Race Project:

The Cross Currents: Thinking about Race seminar will be divided into project teams. Each project team will research a special topic that focuses on race and give a 10 minute presentation on that topic. The format, style, and approach to the presentation will be determined by the project team, in consultation with the instructor. Each project team will also be responsible for writing a three to five page synopsis of the project. Great care should be given in the selection, creation, and development of the project and team members. (7 groups total)

DUE December 7, 2021

COURSE GRADING

You are expected to complete all seminar work on time. Late assignments will not be accepted. Zero points will be assessed to any assignment that is not completed or submitted.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

300 Points or greater = PASS
299 points or fewer = FAIL

Grades will be determined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Race Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race Relations Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions for Friends</td>
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<td>Definition Assignment</td>
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**Academic Integrity**

You are responsible for knowing the University policy governing academic integrity, cheating, collusion, plagiarism, citation of research materials, and more. This link takes you to the page on Academic Policies and Procedures.  
http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity (Links to an external site.)  
Your work in this course will chiefly be original reflection on your own experience. Any quotations from class material or other sources should be noted as such, giving only author and page. Any use of Internet or Wikipedia materials must give the exact link. Failure to do so technically constitutes plagiarism.

**Students with Special Learning Needs**

If you have a disability and seek reasonable accommodations in this course, contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in Disability Services Office regarding other disabilities, even temporary ones. Advance notice and documentation are required for adjustments.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**August 30, 2021** - No class

**September 07, 2021**

Thinking about Race: Race Defined I  
Syllabus and Course Overview  
Assignment Due: Definition of Race due next week (September 14th)

**September 14, 2021**

Thinking About Race: Race Defined II  
Assignment: Reflection Paper #1 due next week (September 21st)

**September 21, 2021**

History of Race in the U.S.
**September 28, 2021**

First Messages of Racial Identity

Assignment: Reflection Paper #2 due next week (October 5th)

**October 5, 2021**

Case History and Affirmative Action

**October 12, 2021**

No Class. Follow Monday’s class schedule.

**October 19, 2021**

Case History and Affirmative Action

Assignment: Reflection Paper #3 due next week (October 26th)

**October 26, 2021**

Race at BC

**November 02, 2021**

Race and Relationships

**November 09, 2021**

Cultural Appropriation

Assignment: Reflection Paper #4 due next week (November 16th)

**November 16, 2021**

All Lives Matter?

Assignment: Questions for Friends due next week (November 23rd)

**November 23, 2021**

Assignment: Brings 1-2 friends to class next week (November 30th)

**November 30, 2021**

Thinking about race with friends
**Schedule for Race Relations**

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