

Race, Class, Gender and Religion
Prof. Diana L. Hayes
134 New North, x74515
Hours: Tues. 4-6:00pm or by appt.
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Course Description: The purpose of this course is to explore the social construction of race, class, and gender in American public life and society, particularly as it has been influenced by religion(s) and to explore the social construction of religion(s). Christianity in the US will be the major focus but other religions (especially Islam and Judaism) will also be discussed in so far as they have affected US society and public life.

Course Requirements: This is a seminar class with emphasis on dialogue and discussion between Professor and students. Active participation on the part of all students in discussion and dialogue is vital to the success of the course and to your final grade. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared for critical participation based on the assigned readings and other requirements. It is recommended that you develop 3-4 discussion questions based on assigned readings for each class.

1. There will be two required papers:

- One 8-10 pg. critical reflection paper dealing with a particular theme of your choice as approved by the professor and as it has emerged from class discussions, lectures and readings. The theme, as spelled out and developed in the paper, must engage religion and/or theology as an aspect of analysis. A list of possible themes will be distributed but you may also choose your own theme. Due: (1) February 26, 2008
- A 12-15 pg. research paper concentrating on a particular aspect of race, class, +/-or gender from a religious or theological perspective. Due: April 22, 2008 (last class)

2. Also required are individual presentations on a theme or themes in the broader areas of race, class, gender and religion. Students, in groups of 2 or more, will prepare a short presentation and discussion questions based on additional readings or other material (e.g. Films and documentaries) to be assigned and their own research.

3. The final grade will be based on the following: Individual presentations (15%), Paper 1 (35%), Final research paper (50%). All assignments, including readings, are due on date listed. More than 2 absences will result in a reduction in the final grade.

Required Texts:

- Rothenberg, Paula, Race, Class, and Gender in the US (6th or latest ed.) (Worth Publ.,) 0716755157
- _____, White Privilege (Worth Publ.,) 071678733x
- Rosenblum, Karen E., The Meaning of Difference: American Constructions of Race, Sex and Gender, Social Class, and Sexual Orientation, McGraw-Hill, 2002, 3rd ed. ISBN 0072487828
- Scholz, S., Biblical Studies Alternatively: An Introductory Reader, Prentice Hall, 2003 ISBN 013045429x
- Additional readings may be assigned and will be placed on reserve at Lauinger Library.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

This syllabus is not a contract and is subject to change (in content, requirements, and dates of assignments) at the discretion of Professor Hayes.