

**Race, Class, Gender**  
**Spring 2009**

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Office Hours: M&W 9:30-11 am  
And by Appointment

**Teaching Assistant: John Patrick Schultz** ([John-patrick.schultz@villanova.edu](mailto:John-patrick.schultz@villanova.edu)) M12:30-1:30 P&J

**Course Description:** This course examines critically the discrete and intersecting social identities of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and their effects on social theory and practice. Our analyses will address the nature and structure of oppression, violence, and social equality. In part our goal is to sustain a cooperative learning environment in which we look deeply at the ways in which race, class, gender, and sexuality affect social conceptions of justice and the distribution of rights. Students also will be challenged to explore how various theories and practices affect other oppressed social groups.

**Required Texts:**

Heldke, L. and O'Connor, P. 2004. *Oppression, Privilege, and Resistance*. McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-288243-3  
Electronic Texts

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to complete the following:

- (a) Two lecture summaries & critiques (approximately 2 pages; 5% each): Please identify two campus lectures that interest you. Attend these lectures and take careful notes. Write up a summary of the lecture, paying careful attention to its relevance to our class discussions, and offer a brief critique. Please complete these before the Midterm or ask special permission for a later date.
- (b) One large paper (approximately 10-12 pages; 30%): Due April 8<sup>th</sup>. Details for the large paper will be distributed in class. Please begin thinking about a topic that might interest you. You will be required to seek feedback on a rough draft of the paper through the TA or the writing center.
- (c) Two essay exams (20% each): Possible exam questions will be distributed approximately two weeks prior to the exams; exam study sessions will be scheduled according to the convenience of the students and the professor. Please refer to the calendar for exam dates.
- (d) Article preparation for last week of class (10%) (at least 4 PowerPoint slides emailed to prof. by 5:00 p.m. on April 26<sup>th</sup>)
- (e) Participate in all class sessions (10%): Active, engaged participation in every class session is required.

**Approximate Course Outline:**

Jan. 12: Introductions and Syllabus

**Race**

14: Omi and Winant, "Racial Formation" (OPR 115); Yamato, "Something about the Subject Makes it hard to Name" (OPR 64)

21: *Please Attend one or more of the MLK day lectures and write one of your 2 page critical response.*

Hooks, "Overcoming White Supremacy" (OPR 69); Ezorsky "Overt and Institutional Racism" (OPR 76)

26: Acuna, "Occupied America" (OPR 89); "Racist Stereotyping in the English Language" Moore (

Electronic file 310-321)

28: Churchill, "Encountering the American Holocaust" (OPR 95)

Feb. 2: O'Connor, "If Everybody's Responsible, Then Nobody Is" (OPR 286)

**Class**

4: Smith, "Civil Government is for Defence of Rich against Poor" (Electronic)

Feb. 9: Marx, "Alienated Labor" and "Manifesto" (Electronic)

11: Please try to come to class at 12:45: guest lecture by Michael Weist of CRS.

16: Bonacich, "Inequality in America" (OPR 502)

18: Ryan, "Blaming the Victim" (OPR 275); and Conley, "Wealth Matters" (electronic 149-154)

23: Catch up and Review

25: **Midterm Exam**

March 1-6: Spring Break

**Gender and Sex**

9: Rousseau's Sophie and Emile (Electronic); Beauvoir's Introduction to *The Second Sex* (Electronic)

10: Please try to attend the Panel on Feminist Political Solidarity @ 4:00 p.m.

11: Nicholson, "Interpreting 'Gender'" (Electronic); MacKinnon, "Difference and Dominance" (OPR 148)

16: Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes" (OPR 476);

18: Hartmann, "Towards a Definition of Patriarchy" (OPR 143)

23: Stoltenberg, "How Men have (a) Sex" (OPR 349)

**Sexuality**

25: Hopkins, "Gender Treachery" (OPR 230)

30: "Refiguring Lesbian Desire" Grosz (Electronic)

April 1: Cuomo, "Claiming the Right to be Queer" (Electronic)

6: Ryder, "Straight Talk: Male Heterosexual Privilege" (OPR 368)

8: Pharr, "Homophobia" (OPR 259) (**PAPERS DUE**)

**Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality (thinking through the intersections)**

15: Spelman, "Gender & Race" (OPR 483); Valdes, "Notes on the Conflation of Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation" (OPR 466)

20: Riggs, "Black Macho Revisited" (OPR 515); Collins, "Toward a New Vision" (OPR 529)

22: Clarke, "The Failure to Transform" (OPR 249); Beneke, "Gay Sexism" (OPR 544); and Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex" (OPR 553).

**Resistance & Solidarity**

27 & 29: Presentations on "Theorizing Resistance" (each person takes an article for some lively discussions on how best to facilitate liberation—(d) of course requirements)

May 5: **Final Exam 8:00-10:30 a.m.**

**Policies:**

- If your cell phone rings during class, I get to answer it. ☺
- No papers will be accepted by email.
- Late papers: one letter grade will be deducted for every day a paper is late; a "late" paper is a paper turned in after 5:00 p.m. on the day it is due.
- Plagiarism will be strictly prosecuted. Students who plagiarize according to the University definition of plagiarism will receive an "F" for the course. If you do not know the policy or if you are uncertain about how to cite something correctly, please see the Student Handbook or speak to the professor for further instruction.
- Extenuating circumstances that require a student to miss class or hand in a late assignment must be cleared through the dean's office. No late papers will be excused or make-up exams given without the written approval of the student's Dean.
- Reevaluation of papers/exams: Students wishing a reevaluation of a paper or exam are asked to read over their work and the professor's comments, write up a brief explanation of why the reevaluation is warranted and turn it in no later than one week after the exam or paper was originally returned to the student. Papers or exams subject to reevaluation will be completely reevaluated, i.e., the grade will be refigured entirely and may go up, down, or remain the same.
- It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability please contact me after class or during office hours and make arrangements to register with the Learning Support Office by contacting 610-519-5636. **Please note: The Peace and Justice Center is not wheelchair accessible. Please email to make arrangements to meet in a mutually acceptable location if necessary.**