



## **SW 504: Social Justice and Diversity in Social Work**

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Sections: 004 and 008  
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3 Credits, no prerequisites Foundation HBSE Course Approved 4/29/14

### **Course Description**

This required foundation course is designed to increase students' awareness, knowledge, and critical skills related to diversity, human rights, social and economic justice. The topics of this course include developing a framework for 1) engaging diversity and differences in social work practice and 2) advancing human rights and social and economic justice. We will explore the knowledge base that underlies skills needed to work towards justice. These include types and sources of power, multiple social locations, social constructions, social processes, social identities, conflicts, and how all these interact. A major emphasis is on developing skills in critical contextual thinking and analyses, and in praxis, learning to use knowledge and theory to recognize and critique underlying assumptions and paradigms, and inform working for change. Multiple kinds of boundaries are especially important— across groups, between organizations and system levels, and within and between people, related to intersecting social locations.

### **Course Content**

Students will actively explore how societal power and diversity characterize and shape the human experience, and are critical to the formation of social structures, cultural understandings, group and organizational processes, and identities. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. In this course, students will learn how current experiences of privilege and oppression are shaped by historical forces, societal structures, social constructions, group and interpersonal processes, and human understandings, including an understanding of the institutional, organizational, policy, and socio-cultural arrangements that contribute to them. Additionally, this foundation course will explore formulations of human rights, including positive rights, and negative conditions that need to be eradicated. This course also studies how social justice and injustice occur in organizations, institutions, and society, relevant theories that can inform work for justice (e.g., critical race theory, and components of many theories), and how mechanisms of oppression and privilege work (e.g., marginalization, exploitation, violence, cultural hegemony, and powerlessness).

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be better able to:

1. Describe community and organizational work for social change.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and skills for working for justice, enacting critical consciousness, and engaging and addressing issues of power and diversity. (4.2,4.3, 4.6, 4.7)
3. Describe the dynamics of difference and dominance/oppression and how they impact human functioning and social relations within and across diverse groups.(4.1, 4.5)
4. Describe how structural differences in society are shaped by historical, psychological, social, and political factors. (4.1, 4.5)
5. Demonstrate knowledge of social locations, constructions, processes, and identities and the diversity within these. This includes increased knowledge about the forces that shape complex selves, relationships, and worldviews.. (4.2, 4.3)
6. Demonstrate skills in critical contextual thinking, applying multiple theories and frameworks to illuminate underlying assumptions, biases and possible opportunities, and engaging in praxis.
7. Demonstrate awareness of the sources of power, how to mobilize power towards positive change, and ways to challenge oppressive assumptions, biases, and prejudices (4.2, 4.3)
8. Describe methods for continuing a life long process of recognizing our biases, learning how to change oppressive behaviors and structures, and building a more socially just multicultural society. (4.2, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7)

### **Course Design**

This class will strive to foster a learning environment where each student can reflect critically on sources of power and mechanisms of oppression and privilege, construct a framework for justice, and examine sources of their beliefs and perspectives. This course will work to create a climate that supports critical analyses, mutual learning, engaging within and across differences and examining sources of power and knowledge. It involves lectures, video, and participation in experiential activities. Additionally, this course will provide a forum to critically examine how our multiple status locations, societal constructions, and social processes shape our beliefs, assumptions, behaviors, life experiences, and hinder our work with diverse populations. Special attention will also be given knowledge about justice and change, and principles of change towards justice.

### **Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & Diversity**

Multiculturalism and diversity is addressed from the perspective of critically considering how diverse dimensions (such as ability; age; class; color; culture; race/ethnicity; family structure; gender - including gender identity and gender expression; marital status; national origin; race; religion, spirituality or worldview; sex; and sexual orientation) are socially constructed, embedded in societal structures across system levels, and maintained through social processes and intra and interpersonal relationships and schemas.

### **Theme Relation to Social Justice**

Social justice is addressed from the perspective of critically analyzing theories and conceptualizations of justice, current trends and ethical issues and their implications for promoting social justice and social change, by considering the influence of normative rules and conditions. Additional focus will be directed towards how structural and institutional conditions affect the opportunities and well-being of different populations (advantaged and disadvantaged groups) in society.

### **Theme Relation to Promotion, Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation**

This theme is addressed from the perspective of critically considering how varied ideological, theoretical and empirical perspectives influence the definition of social problems and, subsequently, the ways in which institutional policies and practices address access, promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

### **Theme Relation to Behavioral and Social Science Research**

This theme will be reflected in the theory, social science literature and research covered characterizing and analyzing macro-level structures, processes and their bearing and implications for the well-being of different vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and populations in society, as well as how marginalized groups exert agency and influence society.

### **Relationship to SW Ethics and Values**

The NASW Code of Ethics will be used to give students direction about ethical issues as they relate to the experience of marginalized groups. The course will focus on social workers' responsibility as professionals to promote general welfare by working toward the elimination of discrimination, expanding choices for all persons, encouraging respect for diversity, advocating for progressive changes in social policies, and encouraging informed participation by the public.

### **Intensive Focus on PODS [Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice]**

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of practice, theories and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self knowledge and self awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

### **Course Materials**

Required Texts:

Mullally, B. (2010) Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege 2nd Ed., Oxford Press.

**\*\*Available for rent on Amazon or wherever books are sold\*\***

Additional readings, handouts and media:

See Weekly Assignments for additional reading.

### **Attendance and Engagement in the Course:**

Both class attendance and active purposeful participation in class discussion and activities are paramount for the successful completion of this course. As a reflection of this importance, 25% of the final grade will consist of course engagement. This course covers a content domain that is extensive, and given the time framework of the course each class moves quickly in discussing information. It is necessary that students attend each class and attend class for the entire time period. Prompt arrival for class is expected; those who arrive late miss important information and disturb others.

Be mindful of the following course policies and considerations:

1. Be present at the beginning of class when attendance is recorded and remain for the duration of class.
2. The instructor reserves the right to deduct 3% from the student's final grade per unexcused absence and more than three absences will result in a failing grade. This policy is subject to modification should a student experience a life situation that warrants alteration of the policy, such as severe illness, their own or that of an immediate family member, or death in the family. Should

- any such circumstance occur, request for modification of the attendance policy should be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible and changes will be documented in writing.
3. Understanding that some students may encounter a situation that might necessitate missing a class, students should inform the instructor of an absence by email at least 24 hours prior to the expected absence or within 24 hours of an unexpected absence arising from an emergency.
  4. In order to be courteous to classmates, cell phone use should be restricted to vibrations—no rings. Students should be discrete in their use of tablets, laptops, and other portable devices for note taking, so as not to disturb the class.
  5. In addition to attending class, students are expected to arrive prepared to actively participate in their learning process. This includes not simply sitting quietly listening/observing, but posing questions & comments to the professor & other students, as well as answering questions & addressing comments posed by the professor & other students during our class discussions. Class participation also involves completing take home assignments, attending any field trips & participating in class exercises & activities.
  6. While vocalizing opinions or concerns may be culturally relative, being silent and not actively engaging in class discussions (only learning through listening) is a privilege one cannot often employ in social work practice. Students who are not actively involved in class discussions will not receive full engagement credit/points in this course.
  7. Learning through discussion and the interrogation of multiple diverse sources can be uncomfortable, but the discomfort stemming from respectful, inclusive, and well-facilitated discussion is not a cause for students to feel “unsafe”.
  8. Class will begin 10 mins after the hour or "Michigan time" from the time stated in the syllabus and schedule of classes.
  9. Please notify your professor, ahead of time, if you have religious/spiritual observances that may prevent you from being present in class, submitting assignments on the due dates so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
  10. Standard inclement weather policies of the university will be followed such that if the university is closed on the day & during the time this class is to meet, there will be no class. If, however, the university is not closed & you still believe the weather to be too inclement for you to safely arrive to class, you are welcome to use one of your allowed absences.
  11. As a diverse group of learners, material may be presented or discussed that “triggers” a prior personal and potentially painful, negative, or traumatic memory. While “trigger warnings” will not often be used during this course, please speak and listen to the instructor and class colleagues under the assumption that there is no ill-intent to harm, “trigger” or purposely offend someone due to certain language, images, or content.
  12. Please eat and drink quietly and clean up after yourself.
  13. Please do not bring adult guests to this course without permission of the instructor ahead of class.
  14. Late assignments and rescheduled presentations are not accepted without confirmed medical &/or legal documentation, under any circumstances. Extensions of existing due dates are at the discretion of your professor.
  15. There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Please prepare & study accordingly so that you can do your best, the first time.
  16. Grades will be posted to Canvas within two weeks of assignment due dates, you are strongly encouraged to keep track of your own academic progress.
  17. Students are expected to engage in an open and respectful dialogue, use the classroom environment as practice for professional interactions with clients and colleagues, and maintain civility in in-class, online, e-mail, video, and all other forms of communication with both the instructor and class colleagues. Inappropriate behaviors with regard to any of the aforementioned contexts could result in a loss of participation/engagement points.

\*NOTE: Students who do not adhere to the stated course policies may be asked to leave class and be marked absent for the session.

### **Important Student Resources**

#### Add/Drop Period:

Students may drop/add via Wolverine Access any time after they initially register up until the drop/add deadline. Any time students make a change to their original registration, it is their responsibility to notify their advisor of these changes. Once the drop/add deadline is past, students must obtain the signature of the course instructor, their faculty advisor and then the SSW Registrar on a drop/add form, and then they will need to take the form to 1207 LSA building for processing as Web registration will not be possible beyond the drop/add deadline. It is the student's responsibility to register for the appropriate courses to fulfill the M.S.W. degree requirements.

#### Incompletes ("I"):

Students must finish incomplete coursework within two semesters of enrollment in the class in which they received their initial incomplete. Please see the current Student Guide.

I: (Incomplete) is used when illness or other compelling reasons prevent completion of work, and there is a definite plan and date for completion of course or field work approved by the instructor/liaison. An "I" may also be issued when a student fails to submit required field paperwork by the published deadline. Any "I" grade remaining on a student's record more than two terms after the conclusion of the term in which the grade was awarded reverts to a permanent incomplete, and credit can be earned only by retaking the course. This limit includes the Spring/Summer term and applies regardless of the student's subsequent enrollment. However, if at the time the instructor agreed to the "I", an earlier date of submission and/or completion of final work was agreed upon, then this date takes precedent over the two-term policy. A change in grade will not be accepted after two terms for any reason other than clerical error. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Associate Dean for Educational Programs.

Note: A grade of "I" stays on a student's academic record permanently. Even if the student makes up the course or field work according to the guidelines stated above, the grade for the course will appear on the academic record as, for example, IB+ or IS. If the "I" is not made up in the approved time frame the grade is changed to an IPL (Incomplete Permanent Lapse) and is final.

#### **Academic Difficulty Procedure:**

When a student fails to maintain good academic standing, she/he is automatically placed on probation. Failing to maintain good academic standing is defined as:

- Having less than a B average
- Having accumulated 9 credit hours of incomplete grades
- Having a grade of U in Field Instruction
- Having a grade of marginal in Foundation Field Instruction (515) or AdvancedField Instruction (691).

A student is initially informed of automatic academic probation via a letter which informs the student of his/her responsibility to develop an academic plan with her/his academic advisor. For more information on academic difficulty and the procedures involved, please see the 2015-2016 Student Guide.

#### **Services for Students with Disabilities:**

The University's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) provides assistance regarding academic, economic, social, and recreational activities to students who have documented disabilities. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.umich.edu/~sswd/> or the SSWD Faculty Handbook at [http://ssd.umich.edu/files/ssd/SSD\\_Faculty\\_Handbook.pdf](http://ssd.umich.edu/files/ssd/SSD_Faculty_Handbook.pdf).

## **Academic Conduct and Integrity:**

Please visit the Student Code of Academic and Professional Conduct at <http://ssw.umich.edu/studentguide/2012/page.html?section=12&volume=1> in the current Student Guide to the Master's in Social Work Degree Program for a discussion of student responsibilities for academic conduct and integrity. Students who are found responsible for academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the School of Social Work, revocation of degree, or any other sanction deemed appropriate to address the violation.

## **Special note about Plagiarism:**

All students are expected to submit their own original work. The presentation of another's words or ideas as your own, without giving credit to the source is regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism is the same as lying and stealing. Any work that is submitted in this class and found to contain portions that are plagiarized will receive a ZERO. All work submitted may be subject to submission to plagiarism detecting software. Policies governing plagiarism can be found in the latest Student Guide. Plagiarism is taken very seriously at the University of Michigan and is grounds for expulsion from the University. It is students' responsibility to become familiar with the information presented at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity/resources-students>. Another helpful resource is <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=43469&sid=338261>. It would be useful to discuss these issues with students in your classes to help prevent occurrences.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is representing someone else's ideas, words, statements or works as one's own without proper acknowledgment or citation. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Using or otherwise taking credit for someone else's work or ideas.
- Using the language of another without full and proper quotation or source citation.
- Implicitly presenting the appropriated words or ideas of another as one's own.
- Using Internet source material, in whole or in part, without careful and specific reference to the source.
- Borrowing facts, statistics, or other illustrative material without proper reference, unless the information is common knowledge or in common public use.
- Self-plagiarism, this is, reusing one's own work without acknowledgment that the text appears elsewhere (e.g. in a paper for another current or previous class).

## **Writing Help and Tutoring for Students:**

Currently, Career Services is in the process of developing a writing assistance program for students who need remedial writing services. Graduate Student Assistants will be available to meet with students individually to help with writing problems. Tutoring in specific SSW courses is also available on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Michelle Woods at [micwoods@umich.edu](mailto:micwoods@umich.edu) for details.

Advisors and instructors can also refer students to the Sweetland Writing Center, located at 1310 North Quad, 105 South State Street. Sweetland offers writing workshops, which are one-on-one meetings with Writing Workshop Faculty. They also offer services for non-native English speakers. For more information about Sweetland, please visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/>, email them at [sweetlandinfo@umich.edu](mailto:sweetlandinfo@umich.edu), or call them at (734) 764-0429.

Another writing resource is the English Language Institute. For more information, please visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eli>.

## **Safety & Emergency Preparedness**

In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 from any cell phone or campus phone.

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. In the event of possible building closure (i.e. severe weather conditions, public health notices, etc.) you may contact (734)764-SSWB(7793) for up-to-date School closure information.

Be Prepared. Familiarize yourself with the emergency card posted next to the phone in every classroom/meeting room. Review the information on the emergency evacuation sign (located nearest the door) and locate at least (2) emergency exits nearest the classroom.

If you are concerned about your ability to exit the building in the case of an emergency, contact the Office of Student Services and/or email [ssw-ADAcpliance@umich.edu](mailto:ssw-ADAcpliance@umich.edu).

Office of Student Services School of Social Work | Room 1748 734-936-0961

For more information view the annual Campus Safety Statement at <http://www.dpss.umich.edu/>.

Register for UM Emergency Alerts at <http://www.dpss.umich.edu/emergency-management/alert/>.

## **Course Grades**

Letter grades from "A" through "E" are given for class performance. "A" grades are given for exceptional individual performance and mastery of the material. The use of "A+", "A", and "A-" distinguishes the degree of superiority. "B" grades are given to students who demonstrate mastery of the material. "B+" is used for students who perform just above the mastery level but less than exceptional manner. "B-" is used for students just below the mastery level. "C" grades are given when mastery of the material is minimal. A "C-" is the lowest grade that carries credit. "D" grades indicate deficiency and carry no credit. "E" grades indicate failure and carry no credit.

You will be providing me with your thoughts on your final grade on your self assessment due 12/12/2017 based on the criteria above. If your grade is perceived as accurate, this is the grade you will likely receive. However, if our assessments do not match up, we will have a further discussion about your final grade. In my experience, our assessments usually match up if you are honest about your effort.

\*\*Please note this syllabus serves as an agreement between the professor and the student, but is subject to change. However, the professor will make every attempt to give ample notification to students.

## **Nature of the Course**

This course is a hybrid course, which means that about half of the course will be in person and half will be out of class and asynchronous, but not self-paced. We will be utilizing an online platform called WordPress to access and complete assignments. Instructions are provided on Week 1.

In addition to the WordPress platform, we will be accessing online content via [EdX.org](http://EdX.org). You will have to create a free account and then search for the course titled Diversity and Social Justice. This is an online course developed by Prof. Jamie Mitchell. You may view as much of the course as you like, but will only be required to view the assignments noted below. This account will also give you access to hundreds of other courses from around the country.

## **Schedule and Assignments**

Week/Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments
<a href="#">Week 1</a>	Introductions• Review of Syllabus	Blog set up• “Mo’olele” due by 9/12/17. Read ALL classmates’ blogs by 9/16
9/5/2017	In Class Session	Watch Module 1 What is Culture in EdX Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 2</a>	Why is theory important to social work? What is decolonization and what does it have to do with social work?	Watch Module 2 What is Theory? and Theory in Action
9/12/17	In Class Session	Group 1 Blog post due by 9/9 Group 1 read and comment on 2 classmates’ blogs by 9/12 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 3</a>	Oppression	Group 2 Blog post due by 9/16
9/19/17	In Class Session	Group 2 read and comment on 2 classmates’ blogs by 9/19 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 4</a>	Oppression at the Personal Level	Group 3 Blog post due by 9/23
9/26/17	In Class Session	Group 3 read and comment on 2 classmates’ blogs by 9/26 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 5</a>	Oppression at the Cultural Level	Group 4 Blog pose due by 9/30
10/3/17	Final assignment planning/preparation Online Session	Group 4 read and comment on 2 classmates’ blogs by 10/3 Project descriptions due on your blog by 10/7. Comments to your group members by 10/14 Watch movie Rabbit Proof Fence
<a href="#">Week 6</a>	Oppression at the Structural Level	Watch Module 4 Health Disparities and Inequalities (Part 1) and Barriers to Care for Transgender individuals
10/10/17	Online Session	Group 1 Blog post due by 10/6 Group 1 Read and comment on 2 classmates’ blogs by 10/10
<a href="#">Week 7</a>	Fall Break	Start work on Final Projects
10/17/17		
<a href="#">Week 8</a>	Internalized Oppression and Domination	Readings and video on website



10/24/17	Online Session	Group 2 Blog and post by 10/20  Group 2 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 10/24 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 9</a>	Intersectionality and Multiple Identities	Watch Module 3 Intersectionality Part 1 and 2 on EdX
10/31/17	Online Session	Group 3 Blog post due by 10/27  Group 3 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 10/31 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 10</a>	Anti-oppressive Practice: Personal and Cultural level	Watch Module 7 on What does it Mean to be an Ally? and How to be an Ally
11/7/17	Online Session	Group 4 Blog post due by 11/3  Group 4 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 11/7 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 11</a>	Anti-Oppressive Practice: Structural level	Group 1 Blog post due by 11/10
11/14/17	Online Session	Group 1 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 11/14 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 12</a>	Dialogue and non-violence as an Anti-Oppressive Practice	Group 2 Blog post due by 11/17
11/21/17	In Class Session	Group 2 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 11/21 Readings on Website
<a href="#">Week 13</a>	Popular Education	Group 3 Blog post due by 11/24
11/28/17	In Class Session	Group 3 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 11/28 Readings on website
<a href="#">Week 14</a>	Social Media	Group 4 Blog post due by 12/1
12/5/17	In Class Session	Group 4 Read and comment on 2 classmates' blogs by 12/5

## Week 15

12/12/17

Final Projects and Self Assessment

Wrap up and Celebration

In Class Session

Final projects will be due on your blogs by 12/9

Respond to all group members final projects by 12/12

Self-evaluation statements are due by 12/16

### **Assignments**

#### **Mo'olele (Your Story)**

The first assignment is to post your Mo'olele on your new blog. There is no page limit as you may use any form of media you would like for this. Additional directions are found in week 1 above.

### **Blogs**

The class will be divided into 4 groups. Your group will be responsible for blogging on the week it is assigned to do so. You may blog or comment on other blogs at anytime during the semester. Doing so demonstrates superior effort that goes beyond the minimal assignments provided. However, you are only required to blog on the weeks you are assigned. In general, blogs should be about 500 words and are based on the reading and your critical and original thoughts.

The style of your blogging depends on you. You should be writing for a broad audience. Thought questions are posed for each week. The goal is not to simply answer the questions, but to try and think beyond these questions and offer insight, either through your own personal or professional experience. There is no specific format, but you can look at examples of my blogs if you need further guidance. Citations are not necessary, but if you use references, you should include them. If you quote or extensively use materials, you should also cite the material.

There is also no format for the comments on blogs. However, I would expect thoughtful and helpful comments. Remember, we are all here to learn and you should expect to give the same respect to others as you would like to receive.

#### **Final Project (Due 12/9)**

For your final project, you will complete a project that summarizes your learning about diversity and social justice over the course of the semester. First you will select an issue of which you are personally passionate about related to diversity and social justice. Next, you will consider the following questions as you develop your assignment:

What theoretical framework can be used to understand the social issue you are interested in?

Why is diversity and social justice integral to this issue?

Why is this issue so important to you?

What are potential ways in which social work or society as a whole can be more effective in addressing this social issue?

1. Service Learning Project

You will spend a minimum of 20 hours volunteering with an agency/organization/group that is actively involved in work related to diversity and social justice. You will keep a journal detailing the work that you did, reflections on the work, and then create a blog entry that summarizes this work and what you learned. Include readings and resources for those who would like to learn more about the topic and the work of the group. Pictures, video, and other visual resources are highly encouraged.

## 2. Photovoice Project

You will use Photovoice as a method for understanding your issue within the context of diversity and social justice. You will need a minimum of five participants to engage in the project. Participants will be asked to submit to you pictures that reflect their understanding of a particular topic which they can take on their cameras or cell phones. The photos should be accompanied with a brief description of what the photos mean to them. You will then take the collective photos and identify themes related to the photos and include them in a blog entry that not only summarizes your work, but also what you learned about in the process.

## 3. Digital Storytelling

Similar to Photo Voice, you will use the decolonizing method of digital storytelling to explore your social issue in the context of diversity and social justice. For this project, you will create a slide show with a narrative background that tells your life story and how this issue has impacted you. You will post this as a blog entry. While this method is more personal than others, You should still attend to the guiding questions above.

## 4. Traditional Academic Paper

Understanding that some of you may prefer a more traditional assignment, you may write a 15-20 page paper on a topic related to decolonization and social work of your choice.

## 5. Open choice

If any of the above topics do not suit you or if you have an idea for a specific project that you would like to accomplish this semester, feel free to discuss this with me. The primary requirement is that there must be a blog entry that accompanies your project so that your classmates can also learn from your work. The same level of rigor is expected from this assignment as those examples above.

## **Participation**

Use the following criteria for assessing your participation in class

### Frequency of participation in class

Student initiates contributions more than once in each class session, however, quality of comments is weighted over quantity. Student responds actively when invited by the professor to contribute. Student does not comment overzealously or to the exclusion of other learners.

### Quality of comments (In Class and Online)

Comments are always insightful & constructive. Student uses appropriate terminology when referring to individuals, communities, and cultural contexts. Comments are balanced between general impressions, opinions & specific, thoughtful criticisms or contributions. Evidence is used to support arguments when possible. Comments are informative and relevant to the discussion at hand.

## Listening Skills

Student listens attentively when others present materials and perspectives, and contribute comments that build on others' remarks. Student expresses disagreement in a professional and respectful manner.

## Grading

Given the nature of this course, students will be expected to complete assignments in a timely manner so that comments and discussions will not be held up or delayed.

## Self evaluation statement

Along with your final assignment, you will be required to complete a self evaluation statement that should be emailed to me by 12/16.

In your self evaluation statement, you will assess your effort and learning over the course of the semester. Consideration should be given to the competencies and objectives in the syllabus and all aspects of the course, including your participation, timely completion of assignments, quality of your assignments, learning from the class materials, as well as from your interactions with your classmates.

This should be a brief page statement and include a note indicating what letter grade you believe you earned as a result of your effort in the course. While I cannot guarantee your perceptions will coincide with mine, I can assure you I will give strong consideration to your self evaluation in making the final determination of your grade.

## Additional Resources on Relevant Topics

The Ferguson Syllabus: <http://sociology.about.com/od/Current-Events-in-Sociological-Context/fl/The-Ferguson-Syllabus.htm>

From Ferguson to Charleston and Beyond, Anguish About Race Keeps Building:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/21/us/from-ferguson-to-charleston-and-beyond-anguish-about-race-keeps-building.html>

Michel Martin: Listening And Taking Action In Ferguson: <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/michel-martin-listening-and-taking-action-ferguson#stream/0>

The 'Black, Queer, Feminist' Legal Trailblazer You've Never Heard Of:

[http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/02/19/387200033/the-black-queer-feminist-legal-trailblazer-youve-never-heard-of?utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=npr&utm\\_term=nprnews&utm\\_content=20150219](http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/02/19/387200033/the-black-queer-feminist-legal-trailblazer-youve-never-heard-of?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=20150219)

Cops See it Differently: This American Life: <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/547/cops-see-it-differently-part-one>

What is Systematic Racism? The Center for Racial Justice Innovation:

<https://www.raceforward.org/videos/systemic-racism>

PBS: Poverty Rates Surge in American Suburbs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjsrdcbbPBU>

Faces of Poverty: Life at the Breaking Point: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7CZMvtU5-E>

HBO Weight of the Nation Part 3 (Challenges):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmcZRgWBdwQ>

Racial History of American Swimming Pools (NPR):

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90213675>

Same sex marriage plaintiffs' stories of love, life:

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