

Diversity in America  
Loyola University New Orleans  
MWF, 10:30 p.m. – 11:20 p.m.

SOCI-T121-F03  
Fall 2014  
Monroe Hall, 318

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Office: Monroe Library, 301F  
Hours: Monday, 11:30 p.m. –  
12:30 p.m., or by appointment

### Course Description

In this course, we will explore what diversity means in American society today. Throughout the semester we will be challenged to consider the who, what, when, where, why, and how of “diversity.” To whom does the term “diversity” refer? What exactly does “diversity” mean? When and where does “diversity” occur? Why has the nation committed itself to promoting “diversity” as an ideal? Do we live up to this ideal? How does being a member of this diverse world shape our beliefs, perceptions, and daily lives? As we explore the literature on diversity, we will use the communities to which we belong, Loyola and New Orleans, to make personally relevant what is read and written about in class. The writings of scholars from area universities will be used as fodder for discussion and writings. Service learning and involvement in Loyola and New Orleans communities will be a critical component of this course.

### What is the Common Curriculum?

In addition to the major you will pursue at Loyola, you will take a broad range of courses in the liberal arts and sciences known as the Common Curriculum. This Common Curriculum offers you an educational experience you will not find at state institutions and other private schools. It is a large part of the “Loyola Difference”—that is, it defines what makes our university and the education you receive here distinctive.

#### The Common Curriculum...

- Includes courses taught in English and history, philosophy and religious studies, the sciences and the arts
- Teaches important foundational subject matter for your major study
- Gives you a broad education outside your major, preparing you for the demands of a complex world
- Is grounded in the core values of our Jesuit mission and identity
- Develops your understanding of human values and social justice
- Develops your critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills

### What is a First-Year Seminar?

First-Year Seminars introduce you to academic inquiry and teach you to think and learn as a college student. The seminars are interdisciplinary, focusing on a single topic from several academic perspectives. While each seminar is on a different topic, they all explore the larger theme of “thinking critically, acting justly” as an introduction to study at Loyola. The seminars are required and carry three credits, just like other courses in the Common Curriculum and majors. They are a valuable first step on your path to a Loyola education.

### First-Year Seminar Course Objectives

This course seeks to contribute to the learning objectives of the Common Curriculum and First-Year Seminars.

#### *Common Curriculum and First-Year Seminars*

- Critical Thinking  
Students will be able to formulate questions about the subject matter and take a position that is supported with evidence. Students will show proficiency in the critical reading of texts, including discerning major arguments, salient points, and underlying assumptions and biases.

- **Written Communication**  
Students will be able to reflect on issues in writing. This should include formulating and defending a position in writing.
- **Oral Communication**  
Students will be able to reflect on issues in class discussion. This should include formulating and defending a position orally.
- **Information Literacy**  
Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate information and appropriately incorporate information into an assignment.
- **Compassionate Engagement with the World**  
Students will demonstrate the ability to recognize issues of justice and injustice inherent in a topic, and they will be able to recognize multiple sides to an issue.

### *Your Objectives*

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### Assessment and Grading

Participation (25 points): Service learning and participation in community events is critical for this course. You are required to participate in **service learning** throughout the semester (total of 15+ hours); this is a requirement in order to pass the course. Jen Jeanfreau is your contact person for this segment of your grade (jnjeanfr@loyno.edu). The class will participate in **community activities** that will be made known to you during the course of the semester (If you are unable to attend any event, then please notify the instructor in advance and an alternative assignment will be provided.). An active dialogue will be the basis for this course, therefore participation in **class discussions** is expected; short **in-class journals** will be written and shared from time to time (in-class journals will be submitted to the instructor at the end of class). You are expected to be familiar with the readings such that you can explain and critique the major and finer points asserted by the authors and compare and contrast the positions of various authors. A large component of this grade will be **weekly reading summary and discussion questions** (typed, a brief summary of each reading and 2-4 questions in total [not for each reading]; due every Monday at the beginning of class).

Interviews (5 points each; total of 15 points): You will conduct an interview for three topics that we will be studying. Interviews will be conducted with someone who is not a member of the group to which you belong. For example, for the topic of race, you will interview someone of a different race than your own about their experiences with regards to race. **3 interviews** are required throughout the semester. You can borrow digital voice recorders from Media Services at Monroe Library (864-7120)—please make your requests early. For each interview, you will write a summary of the interview and a reflection of the interview (2-4 typed pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman), and post the audio file to Bb “Assignments”.

Essay Papers (15 points each; total of 45 points): **3, 4-5 page papers** (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman) will be submitted to the instructor on the date due during the semester. Paper topics are of your own choosing. However, papers should be connected to the readings in some way (a comparison of two or more readings; criticism of a particular reading, etc.) and should directly refer to applicable readings (i.e. quotes, paraphrasing, brief summaries). No Wikipedia citations are allowed. These papers may be used

for discussion in class. Please submit a paper copy in class and post a copy to Bb “Assignment Submission” under the assignment title.

Final Exam (15 points): The **final exam** will consist of an essay paper within which you will evaluate the literature, reflect on and analyze your experiences with field research interviews and community involvement through service learning and participation in community events, and apply the knowledge you have gained to create a policy that will enhance the positive effects or mitigate the negative effects related to a particular diversity issue of your choosing. You must submit a paper copy of the final exam on the day of the final exam and post a copy to Bb “Assignment Submission.”

NOTE: If you are absent the day that an assignment is due, then it is your responsibility to email the assignment to the instructor at the email address listed above on the due date; I will send a confirmation of receipt of the assignment-this is your only insurance that I have received your work.

NOTE: Assignments are subject to change.

#### Late Work:

Any assignment that is submitted late will incur a grade reduction for each day it is late. The definition of “late work” is any work that is received after midnight on the date it is due. (For example, if a paper with a grade of a B+ is submitted two days late, then the resulting grade will be a B-).

#### Note on Cheating & Plagiarism:

Cheating in any form, including plagiarism (the uncited use of direct quotes, paraphrasing, and reworking of an author’s work) is strictly prohibited. Any offense will be reported to the Dean’s office and you will receive a failing grade for the assignment that you cheated on. Parenthetical citations (American Sociological Association format) are the accepted form for citations in this course [for ex.: (Feagin 2001:45)]; see <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html>. Please see the Handbook under “Integrity” for more details, <http://2011bulletin.loyno.edu/undergraduate/academic-regulations-details>.

#### Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact Disability Services at 504-865-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time), you will need to give the course instructor an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in Marquette Hall 112.

NOTE: Unless you have a documented disability, laptops and hand-held devices are prohibited in class.

#### Note on Emergencies:

- At times, ordinary university operations are interrupted as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, or other emergencies that require evacuation or suspension of on-campus activities. To prepare for such emergencies, all students will do the following during the first week of classes:
  1. Practice signing on for each course through Blackboard.
  2. Provide regular and alternative e-mail address and phone contact information to each instructor.
    - In the event of an interruption to our course due to the result of an emergency requiring an evacuation or suspension of campus activities, students will:
  3. Pack textbooks, assignments, syllabi and any other needed materials for each course and bring during an evacuation/suspension.
  4. Keep up with course work during the evacuation/suspension as specified on course syllabi and on-line Blackboard courses.
  5. Complete any reading and/or writing assignments given by professors before emergency began.

- Assuming a power source is available....

6. Log on to university Web site within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension.

7. Monitor the main university site ([www.loyno.edu](http://www.loyno.edu)) for general information.

8. Log on to each course through Blackboard or e-mail within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension to receive further information regarding contacting course instructors for assignments, etc.

9. Complete Blackboard and/or other online assignments posted by professors (students are required to turn in assignments on time during the evacuation/suspension period and once the university campus has reopened.)

10. Contact professors during an evacuation/suspension (or as soon as classes resume on campus) to explain any emergency circumstances that may have prevented them from completing expected work.

Further information about student responsibilities in emergencies is available on the Academic Affairs web site:

<http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/students-emergency-responsibilities>

#### Attendance:

Consistent attendance is required for this course. Absences in excess of three will be penalized. For each absence above three, your overall grade will be reduced by the percentage point equal to the number of absences.

#### Grading

A	93-100	B+	87-88.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9	F	below 60
A-	90-92.9	B	83-86.9	C	73-76.9	D	63-66.9		
		B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9	D-	60-62.9		

#### Readings

Text (T): Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, Third Edition. 2013. Adams, Maurianne, Warren J. Blumenfeld, Carmelita (Rosie) Castaneda, Heather W. Hackman, Madeline L. Peters, and Ximena Zuniga. 3rd edition. New York: Routledge. ISBN:10:0-415-892945(pbk); \$47.26 (Amazon.com, as of 9/22/14).

Blackboard (Bb): Several readings are posted on Blackboard.

NOTE: Readings may be added/deleted at the discretion of the instructor at any time.

#### Topics

Week 1	Introduction to Academia
Week 2	Introduction to Diversity
Week 3	Introduction to Diversity
Week 4	Race
Week 5	Race
Week 6	Class
Week 7	Class
Week 8	Gender
Week 9	Gender
Week 10	Sexual Orientation
Week 11	Annotated Bibliography Meetings
Week 12	Disability
Week 13	Religion
Week 14	Service Learning Reflection & Thanksgiving Break
Week 15	Social Activism
Week 16	Last Day of Class and Final Exam

Please see Blackboard, "Course Material" for all reading and written assignment due dates.