

## **LSP 200 Section 307 Philosophical Approaches to Multiculturalism**

Dr. Dilek Huseyinadegan

Spring 2012, M-W 1:00- 2:30, LPC Levan 303

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 3:00-5:00, and by appointment

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**Course Description and Objectives:** This class will philosophically investigate the concept of multiculturalism, that is, various forms of social identity (race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexual orientation) and how they bear on each other. Understanding the ways in which the categories of social identity function in our society will provide an excellent opportunity for us to further our understanding of what philosophical approach accomplishes, while enriching the conceptual apparatus with which each of us is able to interpret the world.

In this class, we are concerned with reading, and lots of it: we will be focusing our attention on engaging with a variety of voices, which is to say, you needn't expect to agree with everything that we read, but are accountable for understanding the terms of each argument presented and situating each piece within the context of the class. This is not a class whereby you will be passive receivers of ideas; you will be reading materials that will challenge your customary ways of thinking and perhaps require you to reconsider your presuppositions about your identity and the world: this is what a philosophical approach aims to achieve. Our conversations about the readings will be geared toward allowing you to compose an original philosophy paper that uses the readings to analyze an issue relating to social identity that is important to you.

### **Liberal Studies Program Learning Outcomes:**

1. By the end of this class, students will identify key debates in the history of multiculturalism in the US and be able to apply them beyond the classroom into practice by developing and using reasonable guidelines for prioritizing important values – including respect for differences, equality, and social justice.
2. Through the use of self-reflection and critical analysis, students will be able to identify and understand their place in their own historical context. They will also be able to articulate assumptions and explore connections to alternative interpretations and perspectives on history and culture other than their own.
3. Student will critically analyze multiple sources of information (from, for example, relevant databases and other reference works, primary and secondary sources, media, community knowledge, etc.) in order to form clear, concise arguments about multicultural issues and to interpret evidence from a variety of points of view.
4. Students will practice seminar behavior (including class discussion, active listening, participation) to communicate ideas appropriately for a given audience and setting and to integrate skills in an ongoing process of generating and using information to address specific problems. As well, students will practice independent intellectual inquiry outside of the classroom through class assignments.

### Reading and Assignment Schedule:

Our schedule, as anything else in the syllabus, is subject to change given circumstances that may arise in the course of the quarter. Please check *Desire2Learn* regularly in order to be informed on what is due each day.

**Week 1** Mon, 3/26: Introduction and Syllabus. Discussion on Social Identity and Multiculturalism  
Wed, 3/28: Mills, "Multiculturalism as/and/or anti-racism?"

**Week 2** Mon, 4/2: Mills, cont'd.  
Wed, 4/4: Mills, reconsideration of social identity

**Week 3\*** Mon, 4/9: Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex" (Presentation #1)  
Wed, 4/11: Lorde, cont'd.

**1st Paper Outline Due Friday April 13, 5pm, D2L>Dropbox**

**Week 4** Mon, 4/16: LaDelle McWhorter "Sex, Race, and Biopower" (Presentation #2)  
Wed, 4/18: McWhorter, cont'd.

**Week 5\*** Mon, 4/23: Alcoff, "The Problem of Speaking for Others" (Presentation #3)  
Wed, 4/25: Alcoff, cont'd.

**1st Paper Final Draft Due Friday April 27, 5pm, D2L>Dropbox**

**Week 6** Mon, 4/30: *Race: The power of an Illusion* Part II - Discussion  
Wed, 5/2: *Race: The power of an Illusion* Part III - Discussion

**Week 7\*** Mon, 5/7: McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" (Presentation #4)  
Wed, 5/9: Wise, "Preface" and "Born to Belonging" (Presentation #5)

**2nd Paper Outline Due Friday May 11, 5pm, D2L>Dropbox**

**Week 8** Mon, 5/14: *One Nation Under God* - Discussion  
Wed, 5/16: Sedgwick, "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay," (Presentation #6)

**Week 9\*** Mon, 5/21: Sedgwick, cont'd.  
Wed, 5/23: bell hooks – *Cultural Criticism and Transformation* – Discussion

**2nd paper Final Draft Due Friday May 25, 5pm, D2L>Dropbox**

**Week 10** Mon, 5/28: Memorial Day – School Closed. (NO CLASS)  
Wed, 5/30: Final discussion and Paper workshop