

Northeastern Illinois University

Instructor: Miguel E. Miranda

Introduction to Social Justice 101

Fall Semester 2008

Class Meetings: Thursday Evenings- 6:10-8:50

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Office Hours: Before each class session and by appointment

Course Description

The course is an introductory course to the issues and principles of social justice. The course examines justice and its role in each social institution. The course introduces students to the “injustices” of society specifically within the social institutions and structures. The course examines the so called “acceptable injustices” in order to understand the vision and practice of justice.

Course Objective

1. We will study, analyze and understand the principle foundations of social justice.
2. We will analyze the connections between the structures of inequality in society, considering race, class, sexual, and gender.
3. We will study and analyze social practices that lead to inequality and injustice in society.
4. We will study and analyze social practices that lead to a more just and equal society.
5. We will look at the global issues of social justice and see the links between the U.S. and other nations.

Required Text

1. Adams, Maurianne, and others, *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*, Routledge, 2000.
2. Weisheit, Ralph, and Frank Morn, *Pursuing Justice*, Wadsworth, 2004.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance- Attendance is very important. If you have to miss class, please let me know. However, if you miss more than **FOUR** class sessions your grade will be lowered by one full letter grade.

2. Participation- This will be 25% of your grade, so it is imperative that you be present in class and participate.
3. Complete all assignments and readings that are assigned to you- Self explanatory.

All three mentioned above are very important to your success in this course

Grading

1. 30% of your grade will be based on one mid term paper that is due on week 9 (October 23). This paper will be based on topics that we have covered the previous class sessions.
2. 30% of your grade will be based on the final exam. This will be a final exam paper based on any social justice issue of your choice.
3. 25% will be based on class participation.
4. 15% of your grade will be based on a 1-page paper on a topic that will be explained in class and will be due on or before the last day of Class.

Grading System

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1: August 28, 2008

- Introductions, expectations and getting acquainted

Week 2: September 4, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice, Chapter 1; Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Pages 9-35.
- Lecture and discussion.

Week 3: September 11, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice, Chapters 2 and 3.
- Lecture and Discussion.

Week 4: September 18, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice, Chapters 3 and 4.
- Lecture and Discussion.

Week 5: September 25, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice, Chapter 5
- **In Class Activity (Part of Participation Grade)**
- Lecture and discussion

Week 6: October 2, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice, Chapters 6 and 7.
- Lecture and discussion

Week 7: October 9, 2008

- Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Pages 60-82.
- Lecture and Discussion.

Week 8: October 16, 2008

- **Video**

Week 9: October 23, 2008

- **MID TERM PAPER DUE**
- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 8; Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Sections 12, 13 and 39.
- Lecture and Discussion

Week 10: October 30, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 9; Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Sections 46 and 49.
- Lecture and Discussion

Week 11: November 6, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 10; Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Sections 62, 82 and 83.

Week 12: November 13, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 11 and 12.
- Guest Speaker
- Lecture and Discussion.

Week 13: November 20, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 13
- **In class graded activity(Part of Participation Grade)**
- Lecture and Discussion

Week 14: December 4, 2008

- Readings: Pursuing Justice Chapter 14; Readings for Diversity and Social Justice Sections 86, 87 and 89.
- Final Lecture
- Video

Week 15: **FINAL**

FINAL PAPER DUE!!!

Goals For Your Writing Assignments

1. Please take your time!!! Analyze and read each topic covered.
2. Find and describe the issues.

3. Incorporate your own experiences.
4. Describe why, how and where the injustices occur.
5. Describe why, how and when justice occurs.
6. Incorporate the lectures, guest speakers, video, etc. into your papers.
7. No plagiarism!!!!

General

1. No tape recording class sessions.
2. No cell phone use, no text messaging, etc.

Good Luck!