

## **Privilege & Marginalization Semester Learning Contract & Explanation of Assignments**

The **Semester Learning Contract** is designed to give each of you an active role in determining how you will be evaluated throughout the duration of the course. Take time to assess your own strengths, weaknesses and motivations, and finally, assigns a percentage value to each major component of the course. The total of ALL assigned values must equal 100%. This contract is due in class on **Feb. 8**.

I \_\_\_\_\_ wish to adhere to the following distribution for Privilege & Marginalization in the Spring 2012.

*The following 3 assignments are required. Please decide if each will be worth 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30% of your course grade.*

\_\_\_\_% **Reading Responses** Reading responses are reflections you have on the reading. They should be posted on the discussion board by the deadlines listed in this syllabus. The RR should be at **least 500 words** and thoroughly thought out. You are to include information from the session's assigned readings in ONE reading response. Mark up your book/articles while you are reading and discuss the items that got your attention. Reading responses should include *brief* summaries of the text (be sure to use page numbers when directly quoting from the readings), your analysis of the material, and examples when appropriate. This will add depth to your responses. At the end of your response, write some possible discussion questions.

\_\_\_\_% **Discussion** Every student needs to respond to the posted Reading Responses within 5 days of the RR deadline. This will facilitate a computer-mediated dialogue with your classmates and instructor. This interaction is crucial to building an online learning community. Here are some general guidelines.

When you reply to a Reading Response, don't just say "I agree." Give the name or names of person(s) with whom you are agreeing, a brief, sentence or two summary of what they said you are agreeing with, and then your views. Please make sure you post this as a response rather than a new discussion thread.

Reading assignments need to be read prior to your participation in the discussion. Please come to the discussion forum with an understanding of the required material. Your understanding should become clarified through discussion, not to be based on discussion.

Responses should be at **least 100 words**.

Undergraduates, you must reply to at least **three** Reading Responses (not including your own) each time. Graduate students, you need to respond to a minimum of **four** RRs. When you express an opinion, be sure and support it with material from our readings or from other sources that are available to the class. When you quote or paraphrase from the text be sure to give the page number(s).

You're encouraged to post links to external material that help illustrate and strengthen your arguments.

While there will no doubt be disagreements, I expect the members of this community

(including myself) to challenge ideas in a manner that reflects respect and recognition of opposing viewpoints without attacking individuals.

\_\_\_\_% **Journal** For many of you, this class will be one of the most difficult experiences you've had in college. You probably will be uncomfortable as you really start to think about privilege, race, class, sexuality, etc. You will hear and see things that will take you through a wide range of emotions, which may include the painful emotions of anger, shame, and embarrassment. You may have a hard time dealing with these emotions and all the new information that you will learn in here. Your paradigm may begin to shift, and that is never comfortable. To help you through this process, I believe it will be important for you to journal your intercultural experiences *inside and outside* of the classroom. They should be posted on the Journal tab on BB. Undergraduates: I ask that you have a *minimum of one entry* every week. Graduate Students: You need a minimum of two entries.

*Choose at least two of the following assignments. Each can be worth 10, 15, or 20% of final grade. With the exception of the Collage, all assignments should be posted on the Discussion Board by the due date. **You will discuss your assignment in our face-to-face class session on the assignment's due date.***

\_\_\_\_% **Service Project** Work on your own or with a small group (2-4 members) on a project to put into practice topics and ideas from Privilege & Marginalization. Service projects may consist of volunteering for an organization that address one or more of the issues we discussed in class. Your service project also could be screening a film that addresses privilege and marginalization and holding a discussion afterward, bringing a speaker to NSU, forming a club on campus or in your community, doing a fundraiser or clothing/food drive for an organization like Oklahomans for Equality, or many other possibilities. 2-page write-up of project due. Pick a due date (don't duplicate date with another assignment): 3/14, 4/2, 5/2. Due Date \_\_\_\_\_ Explanation of Research

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_% **Unit Proposal** There are so many more cultures (American Indians, women, Latinos, polygamists, disabled, skinheads, little people, homosexuals, Muslims, etc.) that could have been covered in this course. I want you to propose just one of them. Submit a proposal for adding another unit to this course. (You do not have to delete an existing unit to do this, but if you would like to do that, tell me which one you're deleting and why). Write a justification for the unit you have chosen. Be sure to localize it: Why should NSU students be exposed to this material? Use sources to strengthen your argument and be sure to include a bibliography page. How long will this unit take? What readings would you include and why? What assignment(s) would you give the class to go along with your unit? What multi-media (movies, audio clips, etc) would you use? The paper should be at least 3 FULL pages and should be APA formatted. Feel free to attach any materials that

strengthen your argument and be sure to reference those materials in your paper. Pick a due date (don't duplicate date with another assignment): 3/14, 4/2, 5/2. Due Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_% **Collage** Throughout the semester, you will pictures, words, images, quotations, poetry, etc. for a collage. The items should represent your understanding of privilege and marginalization. As you choose what goes onto your collage, write a passage in your journal about the importance of the image to you and how it relates to your understanding of privilege and marginalization. Pick a due date (don't duplicate date with another assignment): 3/14, 4/2, 5/2. Due Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_% **Public Policy** Reading #51 is all about solutions via public policy (e.g., contacting legislators, forming coalitions, writing letters to newspapers, etc.). Use this chapter to inspire you to take action. Pick a due date (don't duplicate date with another assignment): 3/14, 4/2, 5/2. Due Date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_% **Other** Propose another idea for an assignment that will help you learn and apply the material from Privilege & Marginalization:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_