



COURSE OUTLINE

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COURSE NAME: The Great Pretender: The Art of Passing

COURSE CODE: GSSC 1073

CREDIT HOURS: 42 hours

PREREQUISITES: None

COREQUISITES: None

PLAR ELIGIBLE: YES (X) NO ()

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2012

PROFESSOR: Lina Medaglia-Miller, Ph.D.

PHONE: 416-415-5000, ext. 3005

EMAIL: lmedagli@georgebrown.ca

NOTE TO STUDENTS: Academic Departments at George Brown College will **NOT** retain historical copies of Course Outlines. We urge you to retain this Course Outline for your future reference.

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ORIGINATOR: _____	SIGNATURE	DATE
CHAIR: _____	SIGNATURE	DATE
DATE OF REVISION: _____		

EQUITY STATEMENT: George Brown College values the talents and contributions of its students, staff and community partners and seeks to create a welcoming environment where equity, diversity and safety of all groups are fundamental. Language or activities which are inconsistent with this philosophy violate the College policy on the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment and will not be tolerated. The commitment and cooperation of all students and staff are required to maintain this environment. Information and assistance are available through your Chair, Student Affairs, the Student Association or the Human Rights Advisor.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Students should obtain a copy of the *Student Handbook* and refer to it for additional information regarding the grading system, withdrawals, exemptions, class assignments, missed tests and exams, supplemental privileges, and academic dishonesty. Students are required to apply themselves diligently to the course of study, and to prepare class and homework assignments as given. Past student performance shows a strong relationship between regular attendance and success.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Passing as someone other than who you are is based on hiding your true identity, and pretending to be someone you are not. In our culture, there are a few examples of successful passing, but most popularized examples of passing end in tragedy when the passer's 'true identity' is discovered. With so much at stake, including emotional and physical danger, why would anyone try to pass in the first place? This question is central to the course. Through various psychological paradigms, students explore motives of hidden identities as they relate to four types of passing: passing to survive, passing for better economic opportunities, passing as part of a job profile, and passing to perpetrate crime. Students will examine the mythological and historical context of 'the pretender.' Students will also examine the cultural factors that lead individuals to pass on a grand scale, or to engage in everyday types of passing.

ESSENTIAL EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS:

As mandated by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities essential employability skills (EES) will be addressed throughout all programs of study. Students will have the opportunity to **learn (L)** specific skills, to **practice (P)** these skills, and/or **be evaluated (E)** on the EES outcomes in a variety of courses. The EES include communication, numeracy, critical thinking & problem solving, information management, interpersonal and personal skills. The faculty for this course has indicated which of the EES are either Learned (L), Practiced (P) or Evaluated (E) in this course:

Skill	L	P	E	Skill	L	P	E
1. to communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience		X	X	7. to locate, select, organize and document information using appropriate technology and information sources		X	X
2. to respond to written, spoken or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication		X	X	8. to show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others	X	X	X
3. to execute mathematical operations accurately				9. to interact with others in groups or teams in ways that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals		X	X
4. to apply a systematic approach to solve problems		X	X	10. to manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects		X	X
5. to use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.	X	X	X	11. to take responsibility for my actions, decisions and consequences	X	X	X
6. to analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources	X	X	X				

COURSE OUTCOMES:

On successful completion of this course, students will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Knowledge

Explain the psychological and sociological dynamics of multiple identities, marginalized identities, and identity politics.

2. Critique

Develop a critique of social hierarchies that confine people to their assigned identities and create barriers to a healthy and fulfilling life.

3. Analysis

Analyze various contexts, rationales, and methodologies of pretending and of passing.

4. Oppression Consciousness

Identify instances of passing in their own lives, and empathize with individuals who, due to their social context, are forced to pass.

DELIVERY METHODS / LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Lecture, weekly readings, online learning, independent study, and audiovisual resources.

LIST OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER TEACHING AIDS:

Required: Kroeger, Brooke. (2003). *Passing: When People Can't Be Who They Are*. New York: Public Affairs/Perseus.

Other readings will be available on the course website. Other materials will be used and/or distributed as appropriate.

TESTING POLICY:

There will be one essay assignment, a mid-term test, and a final exam in this course. Details about assignments will follow. Attendance is essential—knowledge of films shown in class is required.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Students unable to submit an assignment on the due date should discuss the matter in advance with the professor. Where late assignments *are* accepted, the professor will apply a late penalty

EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Assessment Tool:	Description:	Outcome(s) demonstrated:	EES demonstrated:	Date / Week:	% of Final Grade:
Essay assignment	Analysis of a Passer	1 through 4	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11	Week 12	30%
Midterm test	Short answer responses/written	1 through 4	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11	Week 7	30%
Exam	Short answer responses/written	1 through 4	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11	Week 15	30%
Participation	In-class participation	1 through 4	1,2,4,5,6,,8,9,10,11	Week 1-15	10%
				TOTAL:	100%

GRADING SYSTEM

The passing grade for this course is: 50%

A+	90-100	4.0	B+	77-79	3.3	C+	67-69	2.3	D+	57-59	1.3	Below 50	F	0.0
A	86-89	4.0	B	73-76	3.0	C	63-66	2.0	D	50-56	1.0			
A-	80-85	3.7	B-	70-72	2.7	C-	60-62	1.7						

Excerpt from the College Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

The *minimal* consequence for submitting a plagiarized, purchased, contracted, or in any manner inappropriately negotiated or falsified assignment, test, essay, project, or any evaluated material will be a grade of zero on that material.

To view George Brown College policies please go to www.gbrownc.on.ca/policies

TOPIC OUTLINE:

Week	Topic / Task	Outcome(s)	Content / Activities	Resources
1	*Introduction *Definitions and concepts: the pretender, the passer, the impostor	1, 2, 4	Lecture, films	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings for each week of the course are available on the website Readings from Kroeger's <i>Passing</i>
2	Psychological tools: Passing as psychological defense	1 through 4	Lecture, films, Power Point	
3	Cultural psychology and passing: cultural contexts of passing	1 through 4	Lecture, films	
4	Psychology, Race and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, films, discussion	
5	Psychology, Gender and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, films, discussion	
6	Psychology, Sexual Orientation and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, films Initial EVALUATION of JOURNAL	
7	MID-TERM TEST	1 through 4	MID-TERM TEST (30%)	
8	<i>INTERSESSION WEEK</i>			
9	Psychology, Class and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, films, discussion	
10	Psychology, Immigration and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, film, discussion	
11	Psychology, Disability and Passing	1 through 4	Lecture, film	
12	The psychology of everyday Passing	1 through 4	ESSAY DUE (30%) Lecture, film	
13	Famous Passers and their motives	1 through 4	Lecture, film	
14	Passing in Popular Culture	1 through 4		
15	FINAL EXAM	1 through 4	FINAL EXAM (30%)	

For information on withdrawing from this course without academic penalty, please refer to the College Academic Calendar: <http://www.georgebrown.ca/Admin/Registr/PSCal.aspx>