Forward

by Althea Webb
GSTR 210 Course Coordinator from 2015-17

Welcome to GSTR 210 Writing Seminar II: Identity and Diversity in the United States. You are about to embark on a course that has been designed to introduce you to the Berea College story, as well as a myriad of many other ideas and ideals to challenge your thinking. As you learn about the College, race, gender, class, and Appalachia, you will come to learn more about yourself. Berea College holds a special place in my heart, and it is much more than a place of employment or where I have chosen to spend the final years of my career. Berea College began as a bold experiment and continues today on much surer footing, but still in somewhat of an experimental framework. As we watch the world around us change and become more entrenched, embrace the “experimental” nature of the history of the college. As you study and earn your degree, enlarge your capacity to extend grace to others, search to find your place and purpose in life, and claim your intellectual heritage. You too are now part of the legacy of Berea College, and your name will be written in the annals of this institution.

This text represents the work of a committee who considered a survey from those who have used previous editions, conducted current research on the major themes of the course, asked advice from others in related fields and disciplines, contacted new authors to contribute pieces, and also asked past contributors to update their work. It is the committee’s hope that you will find this edition useful and beneficial now and in the future. As the Coordinator of GSTR 210 who oversaw the revision of this text, I take responsibility for any errors, poor decisions, or misrepresentations. To the committee, you have my heartfelt thanks for your countless hours of reading and discussion to bring this work to fruition: Andrew Baskin, Coordinator, 2007-12 and 2017-18; John Heyrman, Coordinator, 2012-15; Scott Steele, Dean of Curriculum & Student Learning, and a special thank you to Sam Cole, Administrative support staff.