HUMA 2319
American Minority Studies
Course Syllabus

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Course Description: HUMA 2319 – American Minority Studies

This interdisciplinary survey examines the diverse cultural, artistic, economic, historical, political, and social aspects of American minority communities. Topics may include race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, and religion. (3 Lec.)

Theme: Using American mainstream and non-mainstream pop-culture texts, this course covers such traditional topics in the humanities as aesthetics (e.g., visual and narrative form) as well as social and cultural issues (e.g., race, gender, history, sexuality, politics). The course assumes that all such issues can be introduced and explored through textual analysis and case studies of individual pop-culture texts. The course introduces students to a variety of critical studies topics and methods in the humanities. It is tempting to think that we can simply watch a film or a television program or read a comic book and start talking, for example, about how women, people of racial or sexual minorities, are represented. To carefully analyze issues of race, gender, sexuality through a historical perspective in the media, however, requires that we pay careful attention to how the media shapes, forms, and constructs those images.

Prerequisites: One of the following must be met:

* DREA or ESOL 0044 or have met the TSI Reading Standard AND
* DWRI in 0093, ESOL 0054 or have met the TSI Writing Standard

Class Times/Locations: TR 9 – 10:20 A.M., D202

Class Activities: A regular class session may consist of the following:
- Lectures on specific aspects of culture and society
- Student-led discussions of assigned readings
- In class activities; individual or group work

Textbook: NO COURSE TEXTBOOK; reading materials will be provided

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are as follows:
- Demonstrate an awareness of the complexity of minority cultures within the overall context of American culture.
- Differentiate the influence of American historical development upon distinct minority cultures
- Articulate an informed personal reaction to various forms of popular media within American culture.
- Discuss the role religion plays in American life and culture(s).
- Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, politics, and philosophy in American intercultural experiences.
- Discuss American popular culture and cinema.
- Dispel cultural misconceptions about the US and its citizens.

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC): HUMA 2319 is included in the DCCCD Core Curriculum. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies of reading, writing, listening, and critical thinking. It also provides students with the opportunity to achieve the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Exemplary Objectives in Cultural Studies. HUMA 2319 satisfies the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:
- *READING: the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials – books, documents, and articles – above the 12th grade reading level.
- WRITING: the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – above the 12th grade reading level.
- LISTENING: analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing and reading – above the 12th grade level.
- *CRITICAL THINKING: think and analyze at a critical level.
Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO):

HUMA 2319, as part of the Core Curriculum, satisfies the following Exemplary Educational Objectives as set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- To understand works in the arts and humanities as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context. (EEO1 – CCIC = 1, 2, 3, 4 = CO = A/B/C/D/E/F/H)
- To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or arts on intercultural experiences. (EEO2 – CCIC = 1, 2, 3 = CO – A/B/C/E/F/G)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Analyze the history, culture, and struggles for equality of American minority groups.
- Articulate an informed personal response and critically analyze works by minorities in the arts and humanities.
- Demonstrate awareness of multiple cultural perspectives representative of diverse minority groups.
- Describe the impact of discrimination on the everyday life of minority groups in the context of social, political, and economic circumstances.
- Analyze minority group interactions in the United States focusing on immigration and migration patterns, assimilation processes, and adjustments to American life.
- Formulate an understanding of shifting societal perceptions and self-identifications of minority group cultural identities.

Grading:

A 90 – 100%  B 80 – 89%
C 70 – 79%  D 60 – 69%  F 0 – 59%

Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Class Discussions</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Talks</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Project</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers/Projects</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artist/Culture Presentations</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Reflection Paper</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d104 Blog Reviews</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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Some course assignments will come as a direct result of either course lectures, readings, or discussions. Other course assignments will come as a result of the student’s ability to explore and research specific topics and subject matter in and throughout the popular culture; local or national. The above assignments/point distribution may/will change as the semester progresses.

Course Information:

Make-Ups – None.

*ALL ASSIGNMENTS (1) ARE DUE ON THE DUE DATE; (2) DUE BY BEGINNING OF THE CLASS SESSION; and (3) MUST BE TYPED.

*NO REASONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

*EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Cell Phones/Pagers – Turn off all cell phones and pagers before you come into class.

Absolutely NO children or visitors allowed in class, under any circumstances.

You must have Internet access and a current e-mail address. Students may obtain a free e-mail account by visiting www.brookhavencollege.edu, then clicking on ‘N’ for NetMail.

Dates:

Certification Date – February 2
Drop Date with W – April 16
Course End – May 14

Important Notes:

All information provided in this document is subject to change.

Culture is often controversial. Some of the subject matter we may view and discuss in class may conflict with your personal, ethical, religious, or political views and beliefs. We may screen films that may contain nudity, profanity, sexuality and violence. If you are generally uncomfortable with this kind of subject matter, please seek advice about other classes that might be more enjoyable for you.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK TO VIEW THE COLLEGE POLICIES AND CALENDAR: Important Brookhaven College Institutional Policies and Calendar
STUDENT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
HUMA 2319
Spring 2015
Victor G Armenta, Instructor

Select Your Section

| _____________________________ |
| HUMA 2319-23002 |

Date ________________________

I ________________________________________________
(Print first and last name)

I have read the course syllabus and the course schedule, and have had explained to me the possible topics covered and discussed during the course of the class. Therefore, I understand the contents of these materials and my responsibilities as a student.

I do fully understand and acknowledge the following:

A. I am at least 18 years old and thereby an adult in the State of Texas.

B. I am choosing to take this course voluntarily and I am not being pressured to take this course.

C. I will not be able to bring visitors to this class.

D. I have been advised that some content viewed/discussed during the course of this class may include graphic content of an explicit language, violent or sexual nature AND/OR may conflict with my own personal, ethical, religious, or political views and beliefs.

E. I agree to respect the dignity of all people in relation to this course, whether or not I personally agree with their opinions or behavior.

By signing this waiver, I hereby release Brookhaven College and the Dallas County Community College District, any of its agents, and my instructor, from any claim which might accrue as a result of my attendance in this class.

________________________________________________
Signature

___________________________________
Printed Parent Name (if under 18 years of age)  Parent Signature/Date