

South Plains College  
American Minority Studies  
Common Course Syllabus

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Revised: August 2023

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** HUMANITIES

**Course Number:** HUMA 2319

**Course Name:** AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Course Description: (3:3:0)** : 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.

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

**Prerequisites:** none for campus; TSI reading for Internet

Semester Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 (This course covers the historical, economic, social, and cultural development of minority groups, including African-American, Mexican-American, Asian-American, and Native-American issues)

**Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal:** American Minority Studies provides a multidisciplinary analysis of the subordinate/dominant statuses of individuals and groups by recognizing the impact of race/ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic class of individuals and groups in relationship to American society. The course is designed to foster critical analysis of the issues of difference in our society and to prepare students to understand and interact with people from diverse backgrounds and cultural perspectives throughout their lives. Art, literature, historical analysis, economic analysis, and/or music will be utilized to understand the cultural differences.

**Textbook:** There is NO TEXTBOOK for this course. Readings will be provided by the professor through BlackBoard Ultra (BBU).

**Supplies:** Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement for:** Language, Philosophy and Culture

**Core Objectives:**

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.



- **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal Responsibility**-to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number**..... 45.1101.53 25

**Learning Outcomes/Competencies:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

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

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** See instructor’s course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to instructor’s course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

**Attendance Policy:** As per the SPC General Catalog: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy. It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through Texan Connect. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

*See instructor’s course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.*



**Academic Integrity:** As per the SPC General Catalog: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

**More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

**Plagiarism violations include,** but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of A.I. to create or write your response.

**Cheating violations include,** but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy:** As per the General Catalog: Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges



before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Students can find the Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.**



**American**

**Minority**

**Studies**

**HUMA 2319**



**Fall 2024**

Welcome to American Minority Studies (AMS)!

Thank you for enrolling in this class! We will discuss sometimes difficult topics in a space where we can ask questions and explore answers together. We all have experience with topics such as race, gender, sexuality, disability, etc. Here, we can gain deeper understanding of these concepts both in our individual lives and in American society.

**Professor Brant Farrar**

**Email: [bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu)**

**Phone: (806) 716-4657**

**Office Location: Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2003**

**Office hours:** (appointments are available outside these listed times)

**Mon-Thurs → 9:00AM-10:45AM and 2:15PM-3:00PM**

**Fridays → 8:30AM-10:00AM**



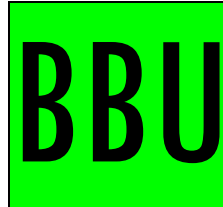
# What do you need for this class?



Device for accessing the internet



Blackboard Ultra



Stable Internet Connection

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## What will you learn this semester?



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



# Classroom behavior



**1.**

Respect yourself, your classmates, the classroom, and the professor. This means you should be mindful of words you use and the stories you share. As long as you come from a place of respect, there is no topic beyond discussion. This class is not about “political correctness”, but about real topics that impact our lives which are deserving of respect. Failure to be respectful may result in being asked to leave class, and appointment with the Dean of Students, or expulsion from the course.



**2.**

Be present in class. Avoid distractions such as phone or non-class related websites/activities on laptops. Guests are permitted only with prior professor approval. Avoid behavior that might distract others from being present in class such as smacking gum, clicking pens, or desk drum solos.



**3.**

If you need to miss class or leave early, let the professor know before class or email. If you don't understand a concept or have any issue that may impact your class performance, let your professor know. This also is to reiterate that you should participate in class discussions. If you are expecting a call or text, let me know. Lastly, emergencies happen. Communicate with me, the prof, and we can work together to find a possible solution.

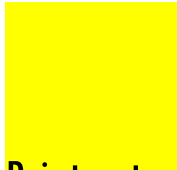




# How will you be successful?



Read/take notes for Readings → Prepares you for class discussions.



Print notes → This will allow you take notes about examples we discuss.



Submit Assignments/Exams → Turn in work on time or early, late work is not accepted.



Attend Class → We discuss the important concepts and info in class.



**\*\*CHECK YOUR  
SPC EMAIL  
REGULARLY\*\***

Participate in class discussions → Key to DEPTH of understanding and engagement.

Read feedback on assignments → This will help you improve your grade on future work.



Ask questions anytime you have them → Your professor is available and happy to help.







## **Blackboard and SPC email**

Through the semester, announcements will be posted on Blackboard and sent to your SPC email. I will check my email regularly and do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week, 48 hours during weekends and holidays.

Emails should include:

-Your first and last name

-Class and section numbers

-Your questions or comments in the body of the email, spellchecked and with appropriate punctuation.

**HELP ME to HELP YOU**

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## **Assignments and Grading**

All work is submitted through Blackboard unless otherwise stated. All work is expected to be proofread and edited for errors. Grading will occur in a timely fashion.

### **1. Course Agreement form (25 points):**

Students will sign a form in the professor's office which states they understand what is required of them in this course. This form will provide contact information in the case of an emergency and the professor needs to contact the student. The time of signing also provides the opportunity for each student to ask any questions pertaining to the course. These forms will be held securely and will be destroyed following the end of the semester.

### **2. Topical Journal Assignments (4 x 50 points; 200 points total):**

Over the course of the semester students will be required to make journal entries pertaining to chapter readings, videos viewed inside or outside class, discussion questions, key concepts, reactions to certain topics, or other class related issues. Journals will be submitted online via Blackboard. Deadlines will be stated in class and listed on Blackboard.

### **3. Music Journal Assignments (4 x 50 points; 200 points total):**

Students will have opportunity to submit songs which relate to the major topics we discuss in class (Race, Ethnicity, Sex (biological/anatomical), Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Social Class, Disability, etc.).

Students will use course material to analyze each song submitted and demonstrate an ability to communicate their ideas as to how the song relates to the course material.

### **4. Paper Assignment (100 points)**

This paper will essentially be an exploration of a social topic which relates to the class material. Students will submit a proposal for their issue to the professor. The issue must involve some issue of conflict in society and how people are working to resolve this conflict. The cultural artifact will be a graphic novel. There are MANY graphic novels available through the SPC Library. Students will be able to select from books related to race, ethnicity, immigration, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, gender roles, and other topics related to the course.



## 5. Reading Quizzes (10 x 25 points; 250 points total)

The course will cover fifteen chapters. Students will be able to choose which chapters they quiz as long as they complete ten quizzes. This means students can either keep their ten highest grades or only complete ten quizzes.

## 6. Exams (3 x 100 points; 300 points total)

Exam format: Exams will be based on a combination of lecture, assigned readings, videos and class discussions. If you miss class you will miss vital information. Tests must be taken during your scheduled class time. Exams may be a combination of true/false, multiple choice and essay questions designed to test your knowledge and understanding of concepts covered during the course of this class.

Exam Delivery: Exams will be taken online through Blackboard, unless otherwise noted by professor. No proctor service will be required. Students will be given at least 72 hours (3 days) in which to complete the exam. A longer period of time may be allowed by the professor.

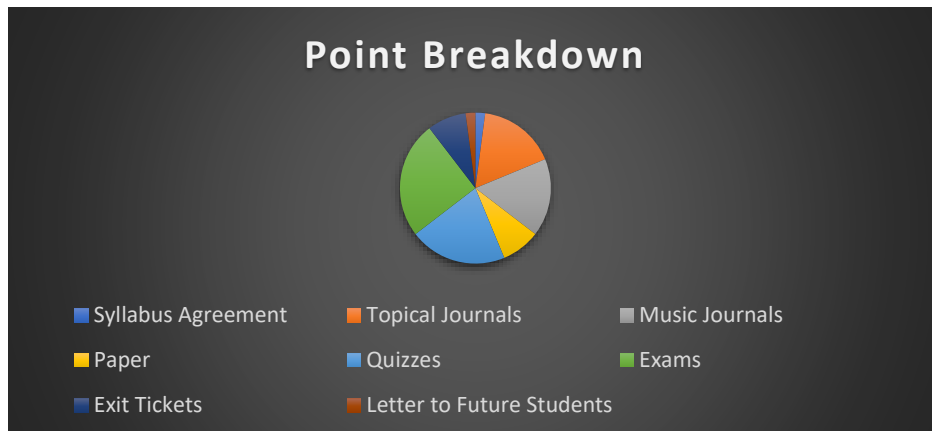
## 7. Daily Exit Tickets (20 x 5 points; 100 points total)

Students will fill out a form during the last few minutes of lectures. This form will allow students to note what they found most interesting and most confusing for the day.

## 8. Letter to Future Students (25 points)

This is your opportunity to tell future students what you wish someone had told you at the beginning of this course. More specific instructions will be provided toward the end of the semester.

# TOTAL OF 1200 Points available to earn



Extra credit will be offered at the professor's discretion. **DO NOT** ask for individual extra credit...especially once final grades are submitted for the semester.

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## HONORS COMPONENT

There will be 300 additional points added to the above grading scheme. Options for the honors component will be listed in Blackboard.





**IF you have any medical condition that does NOT require an accommodation, but may impact you during class, PLEASE let me know.**

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## **Cheating and Artificial Intelligence**

SPC values honesty and integrity. The attempt by a student to present work that does not originate directly from the student and/or properly researched and cited sources is a serious offense and may be deemed as an act of plagiarism. Consequences for this are failing the assignment/quiz/exam, the course, and possible note in your collegiate record. Cheating can include, but are not limited to:

1. Obtaining an exam copy or answers by stealing or collusion
2. Taking an exam for someone or having someone take an exam for you
3. Copying work from another person
4. Rewriting previous work presented by another student
5. Failing to cite outside sources
6. Using ChatGPT or other A.I. resource to write any portion of your paper for you.



**\*\*\*See BlackBoard for official A.I. policy\*\*\***

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**Other Resources for you will be listed in “Start Here” on BlackBoard including links to Counseling, Health and Wellness, in addition to Disability Services and SPC Scholarship application.**

**We have FREE mental health services for students because YOU MATTER.**

**Say it out loud, “FREEEEEE Counseling!!!”**



**Now, let us get past those feelings of nervousness and have a  
GREAT SEMESTER!!!**

