

SPC  
AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES  
COMMON COURSE SYLLABUS

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**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** HUMANITIES

**Course Number:** HUMA 2319

**Course Name:** AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES

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

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Language, Philosophy and Culture

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

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Textbook:** “See Individual Instructor’s Syllabi”

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

**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.

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.

**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.

**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

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class session, complete all homework assignments, and complete all examinations. The specific course requirements are listed on the individual instructor’s course information sheet.

**Course Evaluation:**

Please see the instructor’s course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance Policy: 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 of time 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 MySPC using his or her student online account. 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.

**Academic Appeals Procedure**

**INFORMAL APPEAL**

1. The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or discipline action.
2. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate department chairperson to discuss the situation. (The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.)
3. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. (The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.)
4. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

**FORMAL APPEAL**

1. If the student is not satisfied with the results of the Informal Appeal, he/she should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
  - a. A request for a formal appeals hearing.
  - b. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
  - c. The basis for the appeal.
  - d. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.

NOTE: The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter.

2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs of South Plains College, will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

### THE HEARING

1. Composition of the appeals committee:

a. Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing. b. Faculty member of the student's choice. c. Faculty member and student of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. d. President of the Student Body/Student Advisory Council. e. Vice President of Student Affairs.

2. Other persons who should be available at the hearing:

a. The student who requested the hearing. b. The faculty member involved. c. Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case. d. Chairperson and Divisional Dean.

3. Hearing Procedure: The Committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy, and such representatives as desired, will present all facts relating to the case. Consequently, the committee will recommend appropriate action by majority vote.

4. The termination of the hearing finalizes the academic appeal procedure.

### APPEAL RESTRICTIONS

1. Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. 2. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. 3. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed.

### Standard Written English REQUIREMENT:

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus **expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.** Each instructor may also add additional requirements regarding written assignments that are contained in your syllabus.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

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## INSTRUCTOR-SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

HUMA 2319  
AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES  
Spring Interim 2024

**Instructor:** Morgan Keener

**Office:** Plainview 101H

**Phone:** 806.716.4320

**Email:** [mkeener@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mkeener@southplainscollege.edu) or through Blackboard Email

**Office Hours:** No office hours during Spring Interim

**Required Text:** **No textbook is required for this course; readings will be made available to you**

### **How this Course is conducted:**

This course is conducted completely online. We do NOT meet face to face in a traditional classroom setting. It is your responsibility to have the necessary equipment (internet, computer, Word, etc.) for this participating in this course.

### **THE RULES:**

Pages 11-15 of the South Plains Student Guide highlights topics and procedures of Student Conduct and Penalties for **Misconduct**. I suggest you read this. Here are the highlights as they fit this class:

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating of any type is a serious matter and will **NOT** be tolerated. This includes cheating **in any form** on tests, quizzes, homework, and/or assignments (such as copying someone's exam or assignments), and plagiarism, including the improper use of AI. *If you are suspected of using AI, then you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. You will be informed that you have been suspected of using AI, and it will be your responsibility to reach out to me to argue your case.*

According to the South Plains College website,

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/library/smartstarts/mod6/04-plagiarism.html>, "plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of someone else as your own without proper acknowledgment of the source. It is okay to use the ideas of other people, but you do need to correctly credit them. When you quote people – or even when you summarize or paraphrase information found in books, articles, or Web pages – you must acknowledge the original author."

(If you do not know/understand what constitutes plagiarism, or if you need further clarification ask me or look it up ... **ignorance will not be an excuse.**) Do not even THINK ABOUT cheating in any way.

However, if you do and if you are caught the **following WILL happen ...**

1. You will receive a ZERO on the assignment and we will have a discussion
2. You will be ineligible to receive any extra credit points
3. You may be dropped ONE letter grade at the end of the semester
4. IF you are caught a second time, you be dropped from the class with an F

THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT – EVEN AN EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT. Penalization because of plagiarism/cheating is the consequence of YOUR choices and YOUR actions. It is not something I am doing to YOU – it is what YOU are doing to YOU.

**This is serious. I am serious. DO NOT DO IT!!** Take the low grade for not-knowing/doing the material, rather than the above repercussions for cheating.

**Student Behavior:** This is college, and I view you as an **adult. Please act like one.** Be courteous, be respectful, think before you speak. Do not disrupt class. If you are disruptive with your online responses or comments, you may **be dropped from the class.**

**Attendance:** Here's how it works in this class:

Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussions by posting to the discussion board before the due dates.
- Submitting assignments before due dates.

Each assignment and discussion have a dictated due DATE and TIME. It is your responsibility to get the work done and submitted to me by the designated time/date. Therefore, since this is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to completion/submission of Discussions, Quizzes, Assignments, and projects.

If you are unable to log-on or complete your work for any reason, YOU MUST CONTACT ME ASAP! Excuses such as "the network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and **do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments.** It is always okay to turn in assignments early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule.

It is the student's responsibility to drop the course on or before the last drop date of the semester to avoid failure. Administrative drops will not be made unless otherwise communicated or arranged by student and instructor.

**Courtesy and Respect:** I am your instructor, and though I may joke around with you please don't lose sight of the fact that I am still your instructor. So please do not address me with "hey," "yo," etc. Emails must also abide by Standard Written English. Standard Written English, courtesy and respect is expected in all manners of correspondence, and I will do the same. THANKS!!

## THE GRADES:

**Introduction Module:** The first thing that you will need to complete is the introduction module. This includes your course agreement, syllabus quiz, and introduction post. Your course agreement is a contract between you and me that you have read the syllabus and you agree to the terms of the class. If you have not completed the course agreement by the given due date, you may be dropped from his class with an X. The syllabus quiz simply goes over things found within the syllabus. The introduction post requires an original Post.

**Short Film Series Analysis Modules:** You will have 4 separate short film series analysis modules. In each module, you will be asked to watch a series of short films related to a topic, complete a journal entry, answer questions, and complete a small activity.

**Connection Assignments:** Throughout the semester, you will have 9 reading conversations, which consist of reading a short story of my choosing, and answering specific questions related to the story and the material within this course.

**2 Exams:** A midterm and a final exam

**Written Essay:** One written essay.

**\*\* REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT IS... YOU ARE EXPECTED TO WRITE IN FORMAL GRAMMAR. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY TEXT MESSAGING ABBREVIATIONS!! THIS IS A CLASS...NOT A PHONE.... \*\***

**Your overall grade is taken from a total of 1000 points, the conversion chart is located below. You earn points by completing assignments**

Final Grades (grades do not automatically round up):

A = 1000-900

B = 899-800

C = 799-700

D = 699-600

F = 599 and below (F is the only "failing" grade)

## THE GOOD NEWS:

Extra credit will be made available throughout the semester!

## NOTE:

If EVER you should have any questions, concerns, etc. – come and see me or contact me. That is what I am here for... that is what my office hours are for. I cannot help you if you don't come and talk to me.

## COMPUTER INFORMATION FOR AN ONLINE CLASS:

Blackboard Ultra is the computer software used to deliver this course. It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet. It is not necessary to purchase or own your own computer but you should have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. More information on online courses is available at [www.southplainscollege.edu/online](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/online).

IF YOU SHOULD EVER ENCOUNTER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SYSTEM, DO NOT CONTACT ME. YOUR FIRST PHONE CALL SHOULD GO TO 806-716-2180 or email [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) . OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE FOUND AT BLACKBOARD.COM, AND THE SPC WEBPAGE (THEY HAVE TUTORIALS). You may email to tell me that someone from SPC Blackboard assistance is helping you, but do not call me for Technical/Computer related questions. I am not the expert on that. I can help you on ASSIGNMENT and COURSE CONTENT questions ... not the "system" questions.

**MINIMUM Software requirements:**

Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or another word processing program capable of saving files in RTF (Rich Text Format).

Web Browser – Firefox or Google Chrome is recommended (this is a free downloadable program) - If you plan on using a browser supplied by your Internet service provider (for example, AOL or WebTV) make sure it is the most recent version. We cannot guarantee that all course features will function in all browsers.

Your course may require special (free) plug-ins to access Streaming Media, PDF files, or other web components. Antivirus software is recommended.

Other Software you may need:

- RealNetworks RealOne Player
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Apple Quicktime Media Player
- Windows Media Player

More computer requirements:

Since this course is entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

**Course Calendar  
Spring Interim 2024**

**All assignments modules are due on Wednesdays and Saturdays by 11:59pm, except your Introduction Module, Written Essay, and Final Exam**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Course Work</b>
<b>May 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	Classes begin  Introduction Module Due
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Wednesday	Read/Review/Watch Learning Materials  Short Film Series #1  Connection Assignments 1 and 2
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Saturday	Read/Review/Watch Learning Materials  Short Film Series #2

		Connection Assignments 3 and 4
<b>May 22<sup>th</sup></b>	Wednesday	Exam 1 (Mid-term) Connection Assignment 5
<b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Saturday	Read/Review/Watch Learning Materials Short Film Series #3 Connection Assignments 6 and 7
<b>May 29<sup>st</sup></b>	Wednesday	Read/Review/Watch Learning Materials Short Film Series #4 Connection Assignments 8 and 9 Last Day to Drop the Course
<b>May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Friday	Written Essay Exam 2 (Final Exam) Last day of Class

**This calendar is subject to change.** Students will be notified in class and/or through Blackboard of any changes.