

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.

IF YOU ARE ON CAMPUS .....

#### **Campus Concealed Carry Policy:**

South Plains College permits the lawful carry of concealed handguns in accordance with Texas state law, and Texas Senate Bill 11. Individuals possessing a valid License to Carry permit, or the formerly issued Concealed Handgun License, may carry a concealed handgun at all campus locations except for the following.

Natatorium. For a complete list of campus carry exclusions zones by event, please visit <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the **open carrying** of handguns **is prohibited** on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**Equal Opportunity /Non Discrimination Statement:** South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Disabilities Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.**

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## INSTRUCTOR-SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

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HUMA 2319\_501  
AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES  
Summer I 2021

**Instructor:** Morgan Keener

**Office:** Plainview 101H

**Phone:** 806.716.4320

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

**Office Hours:** No office hours during Summer Semester

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

**Diversity Statement:** “In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be”  
(Faculty Handbook 4.1.1.1) – How **PERFECT** for this class !!

**Disabilities Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. Processing time could take up to 30 days once paperwork has been submitted. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at

Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-7162577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

## 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.

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:

This is a flex course, which means you will/can attend class in person twice a week, and complete all of your course work through Blackboard. "Participation" in the online portion of this class is mandatory – you must be active. There are numerous assignments which should force you to log-on continuously. I understand that each of you has your own schedule and will be logging-on at different times. That's fine. All that is expected of you is that you GET THE WORK DONE!!

Each assignment and discussion has 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.

**Administrative Drop Policy:** A student may be dropped from the course with an X or an F, if they miss a minimum of 3 weeks of class/BB assignments with no communication and/or is earning an F. If absences occur after the final drop date you will not be dropped and will receive the grade you have earned

**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 and 2 replies to classmates for full credit.

**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.

**Reading Conversations:** 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.

**Final Exam:** This is your typical final exam. All multiple choice, not timed. 1 attempt. Will be available during finals week.

**DISCUSSIONS:** Discussion require your posts and comments. You must read the instructions carefully for each one. Pay attention to the due dates/times! No late work will be accepted. Discussions are used in online courses for you to prove that you "get it;" that you understand the material, that you are reading the material, and that you are proficient enough in it to expand upon it in discussions. This is how face-to-face class interaction is substituted. It is very valuable and REQUIRED for this course.

Discussions should also be cited if using ideas/thoughts from the textbook – points will be deducted if you fail to cite your sources. Every discussion requires you to reply to at least 2 classmates in order to receive full credit. Your replies should contain substance, and be college-worthy, so that you are adding value to the discussion. Replies such as "I agree" or "great job" will not accepted. Original discussion post must be a minimum of 250 words, and replies must be a minimum of 50-100 to count for full credit.

Please review the guidelines I have posted on proper "netiquette." Just because we don't see your face and/or hear your voice does not give you a free pass to be rude, crude, or hurtful. The computer is not a veil. Also, for Discussions... I expect you to include terms and definitions from the unit within the context of your answer. You will lose points if I do not see terms and definitions! Remember to always cite your sources at the end of your discussions.

\*\* Most discussions are "closed" where you need to post your answer first, before you can see any of your classmate responses. I understand that students can manipulate this. I also understand that students can make mistakes when posting. But you need to understand that I need to grade YOUR work and comprehension of the material, not something you copied from a classmate. So, upon your 3rd "manipulation" of this set-up, you will receive a zero on the discussion for this and every manipulation moving forward. \*\*

**\*\* 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, class grade is compiled in the following way:**

Introduction Module = 1 @ 35 points	= 35 pts
Discussions 4 @ 50 pts each	= 200 pts
Short Film Series 4 @ 100 pts each	= 400pts
Reading Conversations 8 @ 30 pts each	= 240pts
Final Exam = 1 @ 125 pts each	= 125pts

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 Learn 9.1 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

Other Software you may need:

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

More computer requirements:

Since this course are 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 Summer I 2021

**All assignments modules are due on Sundays by Midnight, except your Introduction Module and your Final Exam**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Course Work</b>
<b>June 1</b>	Tuesday	Classes begin
<b>June 2</b>	Wednesday	Introduction Module
<b>June 6</b>	Sunday	Learning Unit 1 – Short Film Series #1, Reading Conversations 1 & 2, and Discussion 1
<b>June 13</b>	Sunday	Learning Unit 2 – Short Film Series #2, Reading Conversations 3 & 4, and Discussion 2
<b>June 20</b>	Sunday	Learning Unit 3 – Short Film Series #3, Reading Conversations 5 & 6, and Discussion 3
<b>June 27</b>	Sunday	Learning Unit 4 – Short Film Series #4, Reading Conversations 7 & 8, and Discussion 4
<b>June 30</b>	Wednesday	Final Exam
<b>July 1</b>	Thursday	Classes end

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