HIS 321 American Race Relations
Winter I – 2012
3 credits

Instructor:
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Course Description

Survey events in United States history, from the colonial era to the present, that suggest the racial underpinnings of American culture and society and explores how race interacts with class, gender, ethnicity, religion, and culture. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the historical reality of American multiculturalism. Students examine the history of Native “Indian” Americans, African American, Asian and Western and Eastern European immigrants and their descendents, in colonial and national contexts. Topics covered include conquest, assimilation, slavery, ethnicity, eugenics, and the modern civil rights movements. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the development and values of Western and non-Western cultures and the interrelations between people, systems, and social forces.

Intended Audience
This course fulfills the Cultural Perspectives requirement of the Doane Plan.

Text
Cengage Learning, 2012


Course Goals and Objectives
Upon completion of this course the student will:

- Understand and analyze the major events, personalities, and trends in the history of the United States from the colonial era to present as demonstrated in class reports and examinations
- Analyze the interrelationship of past and present events (historical context)
- Develop information search strategies, recognize primary and secondary sources and begin to discern and question accuracy in historical sources as demonstrated in class research and reports
• Evaluate and articulate the issues surrounding diversity and multi-culturalism in the United States, and consider the questions of values when analyzing major areas of history

Course Structure
The course goals and objectives will accomplished through a variety of strategies. Class will consist of Lecture, Cooperative Learning, Discussion, Presentations, Reflection, and Application. There will be time for group work as well as individual. The class will be interactive and engaging with many opportunities for student input and participation. The class will be structured in chunks around specific learning segments. The foundational text for this course will be Major Problems in American Immigration History, 2nd Edition. Other resources we will use, but are not limited to include film, online sources, and other media as appropriate. Each class will examine differences of opinion and will consider diversity and change in historical thought. Illustrations will accompany lectures and discussions will be encouraged.

Course Outline

Week 1
Class I – Text Chapters 1 and 2
  Approaches to U.S. Immigration History
  Settlers, Servants, and Slaves in Early America

Week 2
Class II – Text Chapters 3 and 4
  Citizenship and Migration Before the Civil War
  European Migration and National Expansion in the Early Nineteenth Century

Week 3
Class III – Text Chapters 5 and 6
  The Southwest Borderlands
  National Citizenship and Federal Regulation of Immigration

Week 4
Class IV – Text Chapters 7 and 8
  Immigration during the Era of Industrialization and Urbanization
  Colonialism and Migration
  Mid-term exam

Week 5
Class V – Text Chapters 9 and 10
Week 6
Class VI – Text Chapters 11 and 12
Patterns of Inclusion and Exclusion, 1920’s to 1940’s.
Immigration Reform and Ethnic Politics in the Era of Civil Rights and the Cold War

Week 7
Class VII – Text Chapters 13 and 14
Immigrants in the Post-Industrial Age
Refugees and Asylees

Week 8
Class VIII – Text Chapter 15
Immigration Challenges in the Twenty-First Century
Final Exam

Methods for Assessment of Student performance
All written assignments and group presentations will be assessed using a rubric that will be available to students the first day of class. Student participation and interaction in the class will be a part of the final grade. Students are required to complete all assignments to meet the stated objectives of the course. Each assignment will correspond to one of the four stated course goals and objectives. Students will be evaluated on: class participation; written projects; class assignments; mid-term and final exam, group presentations.

Writing Expectation
Written assignments should use APA style, 12 point font, double spaced, grammatically correct with proper use of citations and reference page. All written assignments will be graded using a rubric that will be given out the first day of class.

Assignments and Projects
a There are assigned text readings for each class. Students will be expected to have read these prior to class and be able to discuss the material. Class discussion is a part of the class participation and in-class assignments grade
b Students will be responsible for completing several ‘response to readings’ and other short written assignments over the duration of the course. Written assignments should use APA style, 12 point font, double spaced, grammatically correct with proper use of citations and reference page.
c Students will be responsible for individual and group presentations as well as collaborative in-class work with fellow students.

d Open book mid-term and final exams to include short answer, true and false, and multiple choice questions.

**Attendance Policy**
Students are expected to attend all classes. Each student is responsible for all work missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. If there is going to be an absence the student is expected to contact the instructor prior to the absence. Since this course is taught once a week it is critical that students attend every class. It will be very difficult to make up a class that is missed. Absence from class may jeopardize a student’s understanding of the course and may result in a reduction of grade.

**Grades will be based on the following grading scale:**

- 97% - 100%: A+
- 94% - 96%: A
- 90% - 93%: A-
- 86% - 90%: B
- 79% - 85%: C
- 70% - 78%: D
- 0% - 69%: F

**Late Papers**
Late papers will be accepted but there will be a significant reduction in points corresponding to each day late, at the discretion of the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to turn in later assignments but to turn in all work on the due date.

**Academic Integrity Policy**
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.