Course Outline for Ethnic Studies 1

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

Catalog Description:

ES 1 - Introduction to Ethnic Studies 3.00 units

An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity in the United States. The course will examine key topics such as racial discrimination, immigration, economics, labor, political conditions, cultural expression and resistance, social justice movements, racial and ethnic identity, and gender and sexuality. A comparative approach covering African American, Arab American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander American groups.

Requisites: none

Grading Option: Optional

Prerequisite Skills:

None

Measurable Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. describe the historical and contemporary experiences of selected racial/ethnic minorities in the United States and their contributions to the development of U.S. society;
2. explain how concepts of race and ethnicity are socially and politically constituted and institutionalized;
3. compare and contrast the experiences between racial/ethnic minority groups in the U.S.;
4. evaluate major social issues and problems identified by racial/ethnic minorities including theories of racism and prejudice based on racialization;
5. assess the growth and diversity of ethnic and racial groups;
6. compare and contrast the immigration experience between ethnic groups;
7. identify use of racial/ethnic stereotypes in a global context;
8. analyze the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the context of United States institutions;
9. explain the significance of power as a crucial variable in racial/ethnic conflict and as they relate to minority-majority group relations;
10. read and interpret case studies of the various ethnic groups and their development in the United States;
11. analyze structures of colonization, imperialism, domination, and marginality;
12. explain the importance of race, ethnicity, and resistance in the creation of cultural/artistic expressions and movements.

Course Content:

1. Historical background of the major factors affecting the experiences of the various racial/ethnic groups in the United States and "Homelands";
2. Theories of Racism and Racialization of the Americas and histories of colonization, imperialism, segregation, slavery, genocide, persecution, internment, mass incarceration, and other forms of systemic, structural, and institutional forms of dehumanization experienced by different racial/ethnic groups;
3. Cultural and/or religious expressions including art, film, literature, food, or music reflecting different racial/ethnic groups;
4. Critiques of capitalism and neoliberalism and its relationship with immigration and labor patterns;
5. Ethnic consciousness and social identity;
6. Variations in family patterns, social class, education, occupations, political participation among different racial/ethnic groups;
7. Social activism, social movements, labor movements, social justice, liberation, and decolonization by different racial/ethnic groups;
8. Major theories of race and ethnicity and their intersections with class, gender, and sexuality;
9. Theories of space and place, including borders, indigeneity, diaspora, migration, and nation endured by different racial/ethnic groups;
10. Theoretical perspectives of power struggles and inequality between minorities and among minorities vis-à-vis the dominant society.

Methods of Presentation
1. Lecture/Discussion
2. Film Presentations
3. Group assignments
4. Guided discussions
5. Class and group discussions
6. Community activities/civic engagement projects
7. Group Presentations
8. Field Trips
9. Guest speakers

Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

1. Typical Assignments
   A. Write a three-page paper comparing and contrasting the immigrant experience of three ethnic groups.
   B. Write a research paper on Americanization programs.
   C. Collect a minimum of six news articles in a file folder that illustrates issues of immigration policies and their impact on ethnic communities.
   D. Write a three-page analysis of a film shown in class (for example Mississippi America) identifying and discussing at least five significant social variables that contributed either positively or negatively to the outcome of events documented in the film.
   E. Participate in group discussions on issues such as immigration, family, American values and gender.
   F. Compare and discuss religious practices and attitudes.
   G. Select a controversial issue such as affirmative action in college admission and identify and discuss the pros and cons in a three-page analysis of this issue.

2. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Quizzes
   C. Class Participation
   D. Final Examination
   E. Evaluation of student written work
   F. Class Work
   G. Written reports on visits to local museums and art galleries
   H. Class Participation
   I. Critical reviews on written texts and articles on ethnic groups and their depiction in American society
   J. Oral Presentation
   K. Research Projects
   L. Papers

3. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Understand and explain the significance of the study of racial/ethnic groups in the United States
   B. Utilize an inter-disciplinary approach to understand racial/ethnic groups in the United States
   C. Understand and explain the significance of the study of racial/ethnic groups in the United States

Textbooks (Typical):

Special Student Materials
1. NA

Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity in the United States. A comparative approach covering African American, Arab American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander American groups.

Requisites: none