HRS 161: Multicultural America
(GE categories: Area C: Humanities/Race and Ethnicity in American Society)
SUMMER 2014

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Course Description
This course is an upper-level, interdisciplinary exploration of the arts and the ways we define ourselves as human beings, both as individuals and within various groups. There is a strong connection between art and society, between aesthetic values and social action, between culture and context. Works of art are powerful channels of communication about ourselves and the issues of American identities: our concern with who we are and how we feel about ourselves and the nation. Our efforts at self-definition have often been shaped by the multicultural nature of American history and experience. The ways in which various art forms reveal Americans’ attempts at self-definition within this multicultural framework is the central concern of this class.

This class fulfills the General Education requirements for Race and Ethnicity in American Society and Area C: humanities

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Texts


Other readings and materials will be made available in SacCT (See the weekly course files in the SacCT Content section).

Course Requirements
- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- This course will be delivered partially online through a course management system named SacCT.

To access this course on SacCT you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the Check Browser from your SacCT course. Refer to the SacCT Browser Tune-up page for instructions.
Course Structure
This course is designed to provide a hybrid experience, including both face-to-face and online activities.

We will meet twice a week in MND 4004.

Course readings, homework assignments and tests will be accessed through the SacCT environment

SacCT Access
Technical Assistance
If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the SacCT Student Resources Page
- Review SacCT Student Tutorials
- Visit the SacCT Student FAQ's Web page
- Submit a SacCT Problem Form

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through SacCT email.
**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this class, successful students will have demonstrated their abilities to:

- Identify, explain and analyze American ideologies as presented in course materials
- Compare and contrast the basic values and behaviors of a number of American cultures
- Apply insights developed through visual literacy
- Recognize the influence and contributions of various individuals and groups (past and present) to the richness of the American experience
- Communicate effectively in both written and oral formats

**Students will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:**

- Attendance at classroom meetings
- Completion of examinations and assignments
- Participation in classroom and on-line activities

**Evaluation:**

- 2 tests: 100 points each
- Paper: 100 points
- Participation (homework, class discussion): 100 points

**NO EXTRA CREDIT IS OFFERED IN THIS COURSE**

400-360 = A  
359-300 = B  
299-250 = C  
249-210 = D
COURSE CALENDAR

Week 01: introductory meeting and some definitions
- **July 14:** introductory meeting
- **July 16:** Read/
  - Kirk and Rey: “Identities and Social Locations: Who am I? Who are my people?”
  - Rich: “Split at the Root”
  - Katz: “Advertising and the Construction of Violent White Masculinity:
- **SacCT assignment #1: due by midnight on Sunday, July 20**

Week 02: defining an American identity
- **July 21:** Read/ Holmes: “The American Cultural Configuration”
- **July 23:** Read/
  - The Declaration of Independence
  - The Bill of Rights
  - Bradley Project on America’s National Identity, Chapter 1: “Being an American”
- **SacCT Friday Assignment #2: due by midnight on Sunday, July 27**

Week 03: the hegemony and the power of conformity and consensus
- **July 28:** Read/
  - Gatto: “The Seven Lesson Schoolteacher”
  - Mann: “Report of the Massachusetts Board of Education”
- **July 30:** Read/
  - Winthrop: “Model of Christian Charity”
  - Emerson: “Self-Reliance”
- **SacCT Midterm test: due by midnight on Sunday, August 3**

Week 04: not the hegemony/race and color
- **August 4:** Read/
  - The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
  - Dubois: “The Souls of Black Folks”
- **August 6:** Read/ Gunn: “Where I come from is like this. . .”
- **SacCT Assignment #3 due by midnight on Sunday, August 10**

Week 05: not the hegemony/ethnicity
- **August 11:** Read/
  - Takaki: “A Different Mirror”
  - Okubo: Citizen 13660
- **August 13:** Read: Chang: “Streets of Gold: The Myth of the Model Minority”
  - TURN IN YOUR PAPER IN CLASS--- NO SACCT or ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS
- **Sac CT Assignment #4: due by midnight on Sunday, August 17**

Week 06: the end is in sight. . .
- **August 18:** Catch up day and final exam review
- **August 20:** NO CLASS MEETING
- **SacCT final exam: due by midnight on August 20!!**
Communication
It is important to remember that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor and other students are not. You can expect that I will respond to e-mail message within 24 hours during the week and may not be available to respond on weekends. Call or visit office hours if an urgent issue surfaces.

Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online
The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. Your instructor will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication.

Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption. The course follows the standards set in the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (STU-0119) and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.

Verbal & Non-verbal Interactions
It is important to remember that you will not have the non-verbal cues that you get in the traditional face-to-face classroom and neither will I.

I cannot see the confused, frustrated, or unhappy expressions on your face if you encounter problems. You MUST communicate with me so that I can help.

To make the experience go smoothly, remember that you’re responsible for:

- Initiating more contact
- Being direct, persistent, and vocal when you don’t understand something
- Communicating often and early

Emoticons
Emoticons are graphical expressions created by combining specific letters or symbols such :-) to create a smiley face. Use of emoticons is considered a friendly and informal style of communicating feelings in plain text messages. Be careful not to rely too much on emoticons or symbols in your communication as they may not easily understood by others or may distract from your intended message.

Attend Class
Students are expected to attend all online and face-to-face class sessions as listed on the course calendar. Attendance at face-to-face class meetings and participation in online activities is essential for the success of the hybrid experience.

Build Rapport
If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let me know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing me when difficulties arise during the semester so that I can help you find a solution.
Complete Assignments
All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through SacCT unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing assignments will affect the student’s grade.

Understand When You May Drop This Course
It is your responsibility to understand when you need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed
If you have a documented disability and verification from the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

Commit to Integrity
As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures
“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.”

Definitions
At Sac State, “cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At Sac State, “plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person’s contribution.” Source: Sacramento State University Library