HRS 161: Multicultural America
Fall 15 Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Rebecca Arnfeld
Office: Mendocino 5019
Office Hours: MW: 11-12; T: 7:50-8:50 a.m.
E-mail: rebecca.arnfeld@csus.edu is my preferred email contact

Course Description

Topically structured, interdisciplinary introduction to the cultural experiences of historically under-represented groups. Historical and contemporary events, as well as values and beliefs in American culture, are examined through various artistic expressions, such as music, painting and literature.

Prerequisite

• None listed in CSUS catalog

GE Area if Applicable

• This class fulfills the General Education requirements for Race and Ethnicity in American Society and Area C3.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Texts


• Okada, No-No Boy. Any edition, including the digital one, is fine.

Other Readings

• Other readings will be made available in the SacCT environment

Course Requirements

• Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)

• Access to SacCT and a current csus.edu email address. Please be aware that if you do not use your CSUS email, you are responsible for
forwarding it to an account that you check regularly.

Course Structure

This course will be conducted in lecture and discussion format, for 50 minutes, three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Lectures may include slides and film excerpts.

Part 2: Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- identify and describe the experiences of different ethnic and cultural groups in the U.S.
- identify the major cultural groups in American history and discuss their distinct contributions and principal conflicts, especially as these illustrate the impact of inequalities of access, resources, wealth, and/or justice.
- effectively communicate a nuanced perspective regarding the contributions of different cultural groups to American society.

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

- Attend class regularly, participate, and take notes.
- Complete assigned readings in a thorough, and timely manner.
- Complete the assigned quizzes, online discussions, exams, and paper.

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

- **Week 01: Course introduction**
  8/31: Overview and requirements
  9/2: Reading: Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.” (SacCT)
  9/4: Reading: Wanning, “The People,” excerpt from Culture Shock: USA (SacCT)

- **Week 02: Models for a Multicultural Nation**
  9/7: No class (Labor Day)
  9/9: Reading: Bourne, “Trans-National America.” (SacCT)
  9/11: Reading: American Dreams (1-4, 25-33). Quiz 1

- **Week 03: Mestizos, Metis, and Colonial Encounters and the Notions of Race and Civilization**
9/14: No class meeting, class materials will be available on SacCT. Online discussion 1 due.

9/16: Reading: Takaki, “The ‘Tempest in the Wilderness,’” from A Different Mirror. (SacCT)

9/18: Reading: Mifflin, The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman, excerpt. (SacCT); Demos, The Unredeemed Captive, excerpt (SacCT)

- **Week 04: “This unfortunate race”: Native Americans and the struggles against annihilation and assimilation**

  9/21: Reading: Allen, “Where I Come from is Like This.” (SacCT)

  9/23: No class meeting, class materials will be available on SacCT. Online discussion 2 due.

Reading: Melanson, Looking for Lost Bird, excerpt (SacCT)

  9/25: Reading: Alexie, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, excerpt. (SacCT)

- **Week 05: A New Nation**

  9/28: Reading: American Dreams, (5-23)

  9/30: Quiz 2

  10/2: Reading: American Dreams, (33-53)

- **Week 06: Forming an African American Identity**

  10/5: Reading: American Dreams, (63-70)

  10/7: Reading: Douglass, The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, excerpt. (SacCT)

  10/9: Reading: Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, excerpt. (SacCT)

- **Week 07: Gold Mountain Men: Chinese in America**

  10/12: Reading, Lee, At America’s Gates, excerpt. (SacCT)

  10/14: Reading, Yung, Unbound Voices, excerpt. (SacCT)

  10/16: Reading, Jen, Mona in the Promised Land, excerpt. (SacCT)

- **Week 08: New Immigrants: European Immigration in the Twentieth Century**

  10/19: Reading: American Dreams, (133-149). Quiz 3

  10/21: Reading: Takaki, “The Exodus from Russia.” (SacCT)

  10/23: Midterm exam

- **Week 09: What is White?**

  10/26: Reading: Jacobson, “The Fabrication of Race.” (SacCT)
10/28: Reading: Gualtieri, “Becoming White.” (SacCT).
10/30: Online discussion 3 due.

- **Week 10: From Yellow Peril to Model Minority: Internment and the Japanese-American Experience**
  
  11/2: Reading: Okada, *No-No Boy*. (ch. 1-4)
  
  11/4: Reading: Okada, *No-No Boy*. (ch. 4-7)
  
  11/6: Reading: Okada, *No-No Boy*. (ch. 8-11)

- **Week 11: Not Just Selma: The Other Civil Rights Movements of the ´60s and ´70s**
  
  11/9: Reading: *American Dreams*, (117-123)
  
  11/11: No class (Veteran’s Day)
  
  11/13: Reading: Various authors, excerpts from *The Village Voice* on the Stonewall Riots. (SacCT).

  Quiz 4

- **Week 12: Borders and Belonging: the Mexican American Experience**
  
  11/16: Paper due
  
  11/18: Reading: *American Dreams*, (162-166)
  
  11/20: Reading: Esquibel Tywoniak, “Discovering the Limits of the Barrio in Junior High,” from *Migrant Daughter*. (SacCT)

- **Week 13: Muslim in America**
  
  11/23: Reading: Wingfield, “Arab Americans: Into the Multicultural Mainstream,” (SacCT)
  
  11/25: Reading: Eggers, *Zeitoun*, excerpt (SacCT)
  
  11/26: No class (Thanksgiving holiday)

- **Week 14: Oreos, Coconuts, Bananas, and Apples: In Search of Authentic Hybrids**
  
  11/30: Online discussion 4 due.
  
  12/2: Reading: Deen, *All Who Go Do Not Return*, excerpt. (SacCT)
  
  12/4: Online: Watch *Key & Peele* excerpt.

- **Week 15: Clash of Civilizations or Postethnic America?**
  
  12/7: Quiz 5
  
  12/9: Myrdal, “An American Dilemma” (SacCT)
  
  12/11: Review for final exam.
Finals week 12/14-18. Final exam day and time, TBA

Note about calendar/schedule: This schedule is subject to change and revision, at the instructor’s discretion. You will be notified of any substantial changes in class, prior to the relevant due dates.

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes, 20% total</td>
<td>5 quizzes worth 5% each, lowest score dropped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams, 40% total</td>
<td>Midterm and final exam, each worth 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper, 20% total</td>
<td>1 worth 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online discussions, 20% total</td>
<td>4 worth 5% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All categories: 100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

Viewing Grades in SacCT

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT Grade Center. Click on the My Grades link (if available) on the left navigation to view your points.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>Nearly Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>Very Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>Mostly Good Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Above Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multicultural America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>Mostly Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important note:** For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the academic policies and grading section of the university catalog.

**Part 5: Course Policies**

**Attend Class**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar.

- You may be absent up to two times, for whatever reason you deem necessary. There are no excused or unexcused absences. Upon your third absence, your course grade will be dropped one letter, eg. from an A to a B. Those who have athletic or debate schedules that necessitate more time away from must clear those absences with the instructor, in writing, prior to the third week of classes.

- There is no acceptable reason for your cell phone to be on or out during class. You will be asked to leave if it is.

**Participate**

Your success in this course depends on your willingness to engage in the material and participate in discussion in class, and in the online discussions. As a university student, you are a member of a community of scholars and learners that thrives on the diverse contributions of its members. College is not a spectator sport. The particulars of how to accomplish this can be found in section 2.

**Build Rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor 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 your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can find a solution together.

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

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider dis-enrolling 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.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if the student has a compelling circumstance, and if the student has a passing grade prior to that circumstance. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one semester.

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 your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student’s 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.”

Read more about Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

**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

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student’s responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in SacCT.