

Honors Seminar: Cultural Diversity in America

Spring 2006, Dr. Chris Huggard

Instructor: Dr. Chris Huggard, BH 2008, phone: 619-4270, chuggard@nwacc.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:30-Noon, 1:30-3pm, and Tues. Noon-1:30, Th1-3:00pm,
and by appointment

Course Text: None. Topical readings will be handed out in class; links to various readings will be provided (see schedule below).

Course

Description: The Honors Seminar is designed to serve as a capstone course for honors students. The special topic for this honors seminar is Cultural Diversity in America. Through an examination of readings, in discussions, and during special presentations, we will work as a group to define cultural diversity, delve into many features of cultural diversity, and then place the diverse experiences and definitions into a historical as well as contemporary context. Though cultural diversity is distinct from ethnic diversity, we will spend much of our class time (and you will spend much of your project time) examining different ethnic and culture groups and the features of their experiences historically and in today's context. We will, for example, read about the experiences of American Indians, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Anglo & Irish Americans, etc. There will also be several guest presenters who will offer their expertise in various fields of cultural diversity.

Course

Objectives: There are multiple objectives for this course: 1) to familiarize the students with different ethnic and culture experiences; 2) to reflect in projects on those distinctions in individual power point presentations; 3) to train the students to assist their community in discussing important issues facing their society through their power point projects; 4) to train students to moderate forums on "The New Immigration to Northwest Arkansas," which will facilitate making NWACC a conduit for discussing important societal issues, issues that future students will help to define through application of what they learn in the classroom and in Service Learning projects outside the classroom; 5) to impart the value of civic duty through Service Learning and implementation of two forums on immigration to Northwest Arkansas.

Course

Requirements: Students will be expected: 1) to attend class; 2) to participate in a group project after being trained to organize, plan, and then offer two forums on "The New Immigration to Northwest Arkansas;" 3) to prepare and present a power point project concerning an approved cultural diversity topic; 4) to write two 3-5 page, typed, double spaced essays on two of the

reading assignments; 4) to write a brief reflective paper on the seminar at the end of the semester.

<u>Grading:</u>	Power Point Project	200 points
	Group Project/Forums	100 points
	Essays on a reading	50 points
	<u>Reflective Essay</u>	<u>50 points</u>
	Total points	400

90% to 100% = 360 to 400 pts.= A

80% to 89% = 320 to 359 pts.= B

70% to 79% = 280 to 319 pts.= C

60% to 69% = 240 to 279 pts.= D

Below 60% = below 239 pts. = F

Grievance

Procedure: Consult the *NWACC Student Handbook* regarding proper steps concerning grievances against other students or professors. The first step is to bring the complaint to Dr. Huggard. If this step does not satisfactorily resolve the problem, the student should contact, Judy Tobler (BH 2010), Dept. Chair for the Social Sciences Department.

Important

Dates: Last day to drop with a “W”—April 7
Spring Break—March 20-24
Last class day—Tuesday, May
FINAL EXAMINATION—NO FINAL EXAMINATION

Bad Weather

Policy: For official NWACC closings call NWACC at 619-4377

Course Schedule: (as of January 24)

Honors Seminar: Cultural Diversity in America

Jan. 17: Introduction to Cultural Diversity in America, (Reading #1—From Naylor, *Problems and Issues of Diversity in the United States*, 1) “Preface,” 2) “Introduction to American Cultural Diversity: Unresolved Questions, Issues, and Problems,” 3) Harley, et. al., “Discrimination and Prejudice Run Amuck.”)

Jan. 24: “White Americans”(1:30-2:30pm)--Huggard and the EAST Facilitator—Dianne Phillips, (Reading #2, from Naylor, *Cultural Diversity in the United States*, 1) Zimmer-Tamakoshi, “We Call Ourselves ‘Americans’”, 2) Metress, “The Irish-Americans: From the Frontier to the White House.”

Jan. 31: The First Americans: Native Americans in our Society Past & Present/Huggard—(Reading #3, from Naylor, *Cultural Diversity in the United States*, 1) Cambridge, “American Indians: The Forgotten Minority, 2) Nabokov readings

Feb 7: Virginia York, Gulf Coast Community College (Community College National Center for Engagement) – **Moderator/ Forum Training 1:30 – 6pm** (pamphlet—“The New Challenges of American Immigration: What Should We Do?”)

Feb. 14: Civil Rights Movement, April Brown. “‘Rap’ Brown: A Brief History of the Evolution of the Civil Rights Movement”

Feb. 21: Charles Robinson, African American History and Experience, (“Life as a Slave: A Narrative” by Mary Reynolds in Thomas Frazier’s “Readings in African-American History,” Reading #5, from Naylor, *Problems*, 1) Gibbs, “Diversity among Black Americans: Part of America’s Hidden Diversity,” from Naylor, *Cultural*, 2) Hogan-Garcia, “African-Americans as a Cultural Group.”

Feb. 28: Angie Albright, African American Literature, (reading, links)

March 7: Tatsuya Fukushima, "Language and Society of Japan."

- **March 11, Practice Forum: BH 1434**

March 14: Daniel Levine, “Modern Judaism” (visit, <http://forward.com/> this originated as a Yiddish-language newspaper in NYC)

March 28: Liping Zhu, The Chinese Americans, Eastern Washington University

April 4: Bryan Aguiar (NWACC), Cultural Diversity in Business, (Reading # , from Naylor, *Cultural*, 1) Contreras, “Practical Considerations for Living and Working in Contexts of Diversity,” and examine internet links on sheet titled “Organizational Inclusions”)

- **Commentary on one of the readings due: 3-5 pages, double spaced, typed (see “Criteria for Student Writing” for hints on writing essays)**

April 11: Choogie Kingfisher (Cherokee Storyteller), “The Messenger” (see links)

April 18: Rosario Nolasco, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, "The (In)Visibility of the Spanish Speaking Immigrant: How Are We Reading the Newcomer?" (Reading # , from Naylor, *Cultural*, “The Mexican-American Community in the United States.”)

April 25: Forum: The New Immigration to Northwest Arkansas, White Auditorium, 7pm

May 2: **Presentations – Power Point projects due**

May 9: **Reflection paper due**