

**South Plains College**  
**American Minority Studies**  
**Common Course Syllabus**

---

Revised: August 2023

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** HUMANITIES

**Course Number:** HUMA 2319

**Course Name:** AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Course Description: (3:3:0)** : This interdisciplinary survey examines the diverse cultural, artistic, economic, historical, political, and social aspects of American minority communities. Topics may include race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, and religion.

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3    **Lab:** 0

**Prerequisites:** none for campus; TSI reading for Internet

Semester Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 (This course covers the historical, economic, social, and cultural development of minority groups, including African-American, Mexican-American, Asian-American, and Native-American issues)

**Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal:** American Minority Studies provides a multidisciplinary analysis of the subordinate/dominant statuses of individuals and groups by recognizing the impact of race/ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic class of individuals and groups in relationship to American society. The course is designed to foster critical analysis of the issues of difference in our society and to prepare students to understand and interact with people from diverse backgrounds and cultural perspectives throughout their lives. Art, literature, historical analysis, economic analysis, and/or music will be utilized to understand the cultural differences.

**Textbook:** There is NO TEXTBOOK for this course. Readings will be provided by the professor through BlackBoard UItra (BBU).

**Supplies:** Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement for:** Language, Philosophy and Culture

**Core Objectives:**

- **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.



- **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal Responsibility**-to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number**..... 45.1101.53 25

**Learning Outcomes/Competencies:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze the history, culture, and struggles for equality of American minority groups.
2. Articulate an informed personal response and critically analyze works by minorities in the arts and humanities.
3. Demonstrate awareness of multiple cultural perspectives representative of diverse minority groups.
4. Describe the impact of discrimination on the everyday life of minority groups in the context of social, political, and economic circumstances.
5. Analyze minority group interactions in the United States focusing on immigration and migration patterns, assimilation processes, and adjustments to American life.
6. Formulate an understanding of shifting societal perceptions and self-identifications of minority group cultural identities.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

**Attendance Policy:** As per the SPC General Catalog: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy. It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through Texan Connect. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

*See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.*



**Academic Integrity:** As per the SPC General Catalog: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

**More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

**Plagiarism violations include**, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of A.I. to create or write your response.

**Cheating violations include**, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy:** As per the General Catalog: Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges



before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).**

## **American Minority Studies - SOC12319**

---

### **Instructor Information**

- **Name:** Brant Farrar
- **Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2003 (upstairs by the elevator)
- **Office Hours:** Posted on Blackboard and office door
- **Contact:**
  - **Email (Preferred method of contact):** bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu
  - **Responses:** Typically, within 24 hours (weekdays) or 48 hours (weekends/holidays).

---

### **Classroom Behavior Guidelines**

- Respectful, inclusive, and adult discussions are expected.
- Disruptive behaviors (e.g., side conversations, texting, rude remarks, repetitive noises) are not tolerated.
- **Cell Phones:** Mute or turn off; no use during class.  
Smartwatches are prohibited during exams. If you are expecting an emergency or necessary message/call, please notify the professor before class begins or as soon as possible.
- **Tobacco Products:** Prohibited in all forms.



## Attendance Policy

- **Attendance Taken Every Class:** No "excused absences" and no doctor's notes.
- **Exit Tickets may NOT be done outside of class.**
- If sick and contagious, email your professor and stay home.
- **Missed Classes:** Communicate promptly with the instructor and get the notes from a classmate.
- **Failure to submit work for 14 consecutive days may result in you being dropped from the class.**

---

## Key Resources

- In our Blackboard course there is a “**Start Here**” module which contains the “\*\*\***Student Resources**\*\*\*” folder containing a comprehensive list of resources for students.
- **Mental Health Services:** Free counseling at all SPC campuses. [Details Here](#)
- **Study Tools:** Online resources are available for your text at the end of each chapter.

---

## Key Deadlines

- All deadlines are **11:59 PM** unless otherwise noted. Deadlines for work are primarily Tuesdays and Fridays. If you don't like those days, submit early on a day you pick. Other due dates are noted for exams.
- **Late work is NOT accepted.** Plan ahead and submit early.
- Download and print the **Course Calendar/Checklist** for detailed deadlines.

---

## Communication

- Check SPC email and Blackboard **daily**.
- Professional emails should include proper spelling and grammar.
- Visit during office hours for grade discussions—grades are not generally discussed via email.

---

## Writing and Assignment Expectations

- Use **Standard Written English**.
- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins.
- Cite all information sources properly; plagiarism = zero.
- Avoid AI-generated work—violations may result in a zero on the assignment(s) or being dropped from the course.
- \*\*Read the complete AI guidelines posted in our Blackboard course.
- **Proofread your work before submission:** Grammar, spelling, and structure matter.

---

## Accessibility & Diversity

- Accommodations available through Student Disability Services, available [here](#).
- An inclusive, respectful environment is maintained for all.
- **Bigotry will not be tolerated, but will be addressed in a productive manner. The overall goal is to create an environment where we can all learn and grow as members of society. All of us deserve respect in this setting until we refuse to respect others.**

---



### **Sociological Perspective**

- Evaluate behaviors through societal patterns, not personal judgments.
- Avoid terms like "good/bad" or "moral/immoral" in assignments.
- You have the right to believe whatever you want to believe, but you do not have the right to force those opinions onto others. You also have the right to not have opinions forced on you. This class is about facts. For example, It is acceptable to say something like "I was raised to believe that being gay is a sin." But, you will NOT be allowed to make statements for all people such as, "Being gay is a sin." The distinction is vital to productive academic discussions.

---

### **Other Notes**

- Blackboard is where students will access the vast majority of assignments and information for this course, as well as submit work. You should check Blackboard regularly and work ahead.
- **Extra Credit:** Instructor's discretion—don't request it at the semester's end.
- **Readings:** Complete before lectures for better comprehension. Highlight key terms and use provided questions for guidance. Take notes over readings. Create flash cards or study tools from those notes.
- **Course Agreement: Must be signed by the deadline.**
- Controversial topics may arise—maintain an open, respectful dialogue, and feel free to ask any questions of the professor.

---

## **Assignments and Grading**

All work is submitted through Blackboard unless otherwise stated. All work is expected to be proofread and edited for errors. Grading will occur in a timely fashion.

### **1. Course Agreement form (25 points):**

Students will sign a form in the professor's office which states they understand what is required of them in this course. This form will provide contact information in the case of an emergency and the professor needs to contact the student. The time of signing also provides the opportunity for each student to ask any questions pertaining to the course. These forms will be held securely and will be destroyed following the end of the semester.

### **2. Student Resource Quiz (30 points):**

Students will complete a quiz using the Student Resources folder in the Start Here module. This will help students become more familiar with the wide variety of resources available to them at SPC and beyond.

### **3. LDC Scavenger Hunt (50 points):**

Students will complete a scavenger hunt which will help them become familiar with important resources on the Lubbock Downtown Campus. Students will include information and pictures to prove they have gone to each location.



#### **4. Letters FROM Former Students (25 points):**

Students will read letters written by former students. These letters describe the experiences of former students in this class, what they did to earn or not earn the grade they wanted, and other aspects of this class. The purpose of this assignment is to help you understand what you need to do to be successful in this course.

#### **5. Topical Journal Assignments (3 x 50 points; 150 points total):**

Over the course of the semester students will be required to make journal entries pertaining to chapter readings, videos viewed inside or outside class, discussion questions, key concepts, reactions to certain topics, or other class related issues.

#### **6. Music Journal Assignments (3 x 50 points; 150 points total):**

Students will have opportunity to submit songs which relate to the major topics we discuss in class (Race, Ethnicity, Sex (biological/anatomical), Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Social Class, Disability, etc.).

Students will use course material to analyze each song submitted and demonstrate an ability to communicate their ideas as to how the song relates to the course material.

#### **7. Paper Assignment (125 points)**

This paper will essentially be an exploration of a social topic which relates to the class material. Students will submit a proposal for their issue to the professor. The issue must involve some issue of conflict in society and how people are working to resolve this conflict. The cultural artifact will be a graphic novel. There are MANY graphic novels available through the SPC Library. Students will be able to select from books related to race, ethnicity, immigration, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, gender roles, and other topics related to the course.

#### **8. Reading Quizzes (10 x 25 points; 250 points total)**

The course will cover fifteen chapters. Students will be able to choose which chapters they quiz as long as they complete ten quizzes. This means students can either keep their ten highest grades or only complete ten quizzes.

#### **9. Exams (3 x 100 points; 300 points total)**

Exam format: Exams will be based on a combination of lecture, assigned readings, videos and class discussions. Exams may be a combination of true/false, multiple choice and essay questions designed to test your knowledge and understanding of concepts covered during the course of this class. The exam will be approximately 50 questions.

Exam Delivery: Exams will be taken online through Blackboard, unless otherwise noted by professor. No proctor service will be required. Students will be given roughly 3 days in which to complete the exam. Students will have 60 minutes to complete the exam.

#### **10. Daily Exit Tickets (20 x 5 points; 100 points total)**

Students will fill out a form during the last few minutes of lectures. This form will allow students to note what they found most interesting and most confusing for the day.

#### **11. Letter to Future Students (25 points)**

This is your opportunity to tell future students what you wish someone had told you at the beginning of this course. More specific instructions will be provided toward the end of the semester.

---

**TOTAL OF 1230 Points available to earn**



---

\*Students enrolled in this course as an Honors College class will have 300 additional points to earn. Students will have options regarding the Honors project for this course.\*

---

Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following scale:

<b>A</b>	<b>1107 to 1230</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>984 to 1106.9</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>861 to 983.9</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>738 to 860.9</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>737.9 and below</b>

*Grades are NOT automatically rounded up.* For example, 1083 points is a B and not automatically rounded up to an A.

**\*\*\*Remember you can always feel free to ask me any course or college related questions. I am here to help you on your journey. \*\*\***

**Now that we've taken care of this stuff, let's have a GREAT SEMESTER!!!**

