

SPC  
AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES  
COMMON COURSE SYLLABUS

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**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** HUMANITIES/SOCIOLOGY

**Course Number:** HUMA 2319/SOCI 2319

**Course Name:** AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES

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

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Language, Philosophy and Culture

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

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Textbook:** “See Individual Instructor’s Syllabi”

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

**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.

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.

**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.

**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

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class session, complete all homework assignments, and complete all examinations. The specific course requirements are listed on the individual instructor's course information sheet.

**Course Evaluation:**

Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance Policy: 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 of time 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 MySPC using his or her student online account. 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.

## **Academic Appeals Procedure**

### **INFORMAL APPEAL**

1. The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or discipline action.
2. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate department chairperson to discuss the situation. (The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.)
3. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. (The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.)
4. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

### **FORMAL APPEAL**

1. If the student is not satisfied with the results of the Informal Appeal, he/she should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:

a. A request for a formal appeal hearing.  
b. A brief statement of what is being appealed.  
c. The basis for the appeal.  
d. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.

NOTE: The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter.

2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs of South Plains College, will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

### **THE HEARING**

1. Composition of the appeals committee:

a. Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.  
b. Faculty member of the student's choice.  
c. Faculty member and student of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.  
d. President of the Student Body/Student Advisory Council.  
e. Vice President of Student Affairs.

2. Other persons who should be available at the hearing:

a. The student who requested the hearing.  
b. The faculty member involved.  
c. Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.  
d. Chairperson and Divisional Dean.

3. Hearing Procedure: The Committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy, and such representatives as desired, will present all facts relating to the case. Consequently, the committee will recommend appropriate action by majority vote.

4. The termination of the hearing finalizes the academic appeal procedure.

### **APPEAL RESTRICTIONS**

1. Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered.  
2. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing.  
3. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed.

### **Standard Written English REQUIREMENT:**

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus **expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home**

**essays.** Each instructor may also add additional requirements regarding written assignments that are contained in your syllabus.

**Artificial Intelligence Statement:**

**Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:** AI applications such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, Bard, Grammarly, WordTune and others are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

**Academic Integrity:** Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

**Collaboration and Consultation:** While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations. Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

**Critical Thinking and Originality:** AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

**Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:** AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI. Therefore, when using AI, just like with using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

**Responsible Engagement:** Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

**Compliance with South Plains College Policies:** Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

Remember, AI can be a tool to support your learning in certain courses and assignments, but it cannot replace the critical thinking, creativity, and independent work that are integral to your overall academic growth.

**For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit**  
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

***South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: [COVID Response \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/covid-response).***

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#### INSTRUCTOR-SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

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HUMA 2319/SOCI 2319  
AMERICAN MINORITY STUDIES  
Spring 2026

**Instructor:** Morgan Keener

**Office:** Plainview 101H

**Phone:** 806.716.4320

**Email:** [mkeener@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mkeener@southplainscollege.edu) or through Blackboard Email

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesday 1:30-3:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45-10:15am; Fridays 8:30-11:30am

**Required Text:** No textbook is required for this course, weekly readings/learning materials will be made available via Blackboard

**How this Course is Conducted:**

This course is a blended/hybrid course, which means that you will attend face to face, in a regular classroom setting, twice a week for lectures and instruction; **but** you will access Blackboard for all of your course work and for your grades

**Logging into Blackboard:**

To access your course, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> or go to the SPC Homepage and click on the "Login to" link in the top right-hand portion of the page and then click on the Blackboard link on the pull-down or you can type or copy the address into the address window of your computer. I recommend that you bookmark Blackboard on your computer for quick access. You can also log into MySPC and there is a Blackboard link there. Once you reach the site you will click "Log In". The log-in screen will come up asking for your user name and password. Simply follow the instructions on the screen.

## **OTHER INFORMATION concerning Blackboard:**

**Open Computer Lab:** There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

**Technical Problems/Support:** If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation. If you lose your course work due to bad flash drives, Internet service down, computer crash, or your dog ate your homework, there is nothing I can do about it. **THIS IS YOUR WARNING TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN IN PLACE.**

- **IMPORTANT:** Most tech issues are related to failure to update java, using the incorrect internet browser (try use Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer), and/or not deleting browsing history files daily. Most issues are related to computer issues, not Blackboard. Please note that this instructor does NOT recommend use of any handheld devices for taking this course. Cellphones are wonderful but not for course work done on the Internet.
- Reminder - **bookmark** the Blackboard login page on your computer.

**SPC Technical Support Contact:** Call (806) 716-2180 or email at [Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) for student technical support. I am your course work support contact. Only call or e-mail technical support with questions about Blackboard or computer functioning. There is Technical Support information in the Start Here area of your Blackboard course. It contains links to Student Tutorials and the Student Orientation Course for Blackboard. Contact me for any course content information.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN COURSE WORK IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS!** Remember the saying "**TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS!**"

**Anti-virus Software:** Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

**Academic Integrity:** In addition to the policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item, looking at the scantron of another student during an exam or an exam or other coursework completed by someone other than yourself. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content/items/answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications." For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resource Policy:** If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for said coursework, letting the student know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the instructor within 3 days of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for

AI use. The student can discuss the coursework in question with the instructor by virtual appointment to earn credit. In these cases, the student will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one's own work will continue to earn zeroes for those attempts or may result in a course drop with an F by the instructor. The incidents will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

There is an APA Citation tutorial in the Applying the Sociological Imagination Essay section of your Blackboard course.

**Smoke free environment:** The following is the SPC policy on tobacco use.

South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25-foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.

**Attendance Policy:** The following is in addition to the Common Course Syllabus:

You are expected to attend class in person and remain for the entire class. Attendance is necessary as test questions will also come from the lecture, class discussion and other material received in class as well as the textbook. If you are late, it is your responsibility to speak with the instructor to see if you missed an important announcement or assignment at the beginning of the class. Please communicate with me if you plan to be absent – this is your responsibility as a student.

Blackboard "Participation" in this class is **mandatory** – this is how you earn your grade. There are numerous assignments which should force you to log-in continuously. I understand that each of you has your own schedule and will be logging-in at different times. That's fine. All that is expected of you is that you **GET THE WORK DONE!!**

Each assignment and discussion have a dictated due DATE and TIME. It is your responsibility to get the work done and submitted to me by the designated time/date. If you are unable to log-in or complete your work for any reason, **YOU MUST CONTACT ME ASAP!**

Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and **do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments.** It is always okay to turn in assignments early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule.

**It is the student's responsibility to drop the course on or before the last drop date of the semester to avoid failure. Administrative drops will not be made, unless student has discussed/made arrangements with me.**

**Technical help with Blackboard and Student Support Services:**  
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/technology/it-help-desk.php>

## **Sensitive Nature of Humanities and Behavioral Science Courses**

Given the dynamics of individual, relational, familial, societal, and cultural development and issues, behavioral studies courses address many sensitive issues; this course is no exception. American Minority Studies can occur in the context of sexual, racial/ethnic, political, religious/spiritual, economic/social class, and disability/challenge concerns. The discussion of such issues will increase the student's knowledge of various groups and relations that exist in the modern world, but the information can be emotionally charged. It is also likely that the student will be exposed to diverse viewpoints; some viewpoints might differ from the student's personal views. If a student chooses to remain in class, then they will be expected to respect the diverse viewpoints represented in the course material, as well as the viewpoints of their classmates. If the student is easily offended by discussion of such issues, then they should consider whether to remain enrolled in the course.

## **Revelation of Personal Information**

This course addresses topics that are personal in nature. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussion/presentations but are not required to share personal information with classmates. It is recommended that students use discretion in self-disclosure with classmates and the instructor. While it is expected that fellow classmates will be respectful and not disclose information that is shared in class, the instructor cannot guarantee confidentiality of information. Thus, students are responsible for the information that they share and should not share information they do not want others to know.

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## **COURSE POLICY AND REQUIREMENTS**

This is what you need to do to **earn** your grade

**Introduction module:** You must complete this to remain in the course

**Course Work:** ***You are responsible for all of your readings and assignments.*** It is required that you read/review each assigned chapter, as well as, complete the following chapter activities:

- **Short Film Series** (4 total; video series, plus related activities)
- **Class Discussions** (4 total; one written post that must be a minimum of 200-300 words, with 2 replies that each must be a minimum of 50-100 words; if your post and replies do not meet minimum word count, your grade will be automatically be reduced by half)
- **Connection Assignments** (0 total, read a short story and complete a short-written prompt connecting it to terms and concepts found in the course)
- **Mid-term**
- **Evidence Portfolio**
- **Final Exam**

All grades will be posted in Blackboard under the My Grades link.

**Total Possible Points you can earn is 1,000.** Your overall letter grade/percentage is based solely on the points you earn. Please reference the grading scale below. **Grades are NOT rounded up, which means if you earn 899 points, you will receive an 89% or a B as your overall grade, no exceptions**

**Grading scale:**

**A = 900 – 1000**  
**B = 800 – 899.99**  
**C = 700 – 799.99**  
**D = 600 – 699.99**  
**F = 0 – 599.99.**

**This scale is the typical: A = 90%-100%; B=80%-89.99%; C=70%-79.99%; D=60%-69.99%; and F=0%-59.99%.**

If you have any questions about any of the course work or anything about the course material do not hesitate to speak to me during office hours, before/during/after class, or via Blackboard e-mail.

**Late work** is accepted but not encouraged. Deadlines provide structure, and it is preferable that you stick to the course calendar. The deadline for all late work will be provided per instructor in Blackboard.

**Extra credit opportunities** will be made available during the semester. I recommend that you take advantage of those opportunities as they become available as I will not make extra credit available on individual request.

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**Course Calendar  
Spring 2026**

***All assignments modules are due on Mondays by 11:59pm***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Course Work</b>
<b>Jan 12</b>	Monday	Classes begin
<b>Jan 19</b>	Monday	MLK Day – all campuses closed  Introduction Module due
<b>Jan 26</b>	Monday	Unit 1 - Readings/Learning Materials and Connection Assignments 1 and 2
<b>Feb 2</b>	Monday	Unit 2 - Short Film Series 1
<b>Feb 9</b>	Monday	Unit 3 – Readings/Learning Materials and Discussion 1 with 2 replies
<b>Feb 16</b>	Monday	Unit 4 - Readings/Learning Materials and Connection Assignments 3 and 4
<b>Feb 23</b>	Monday	Unit 5 - Short Film Series 2

<b>Mar 2</b>	Monday	Unit 6 – Readings/Learning Materials and Discussion 2 with 2 replies
<b>Mar 9</b>	Sunday	Unit 7 - Mid-Term Exam and Connection Assignment 5
<b>Mar 16</b>	Monday	Unit 8 - Readings/Learning Materials and Connection Assignment 6 and 7
<b>Mar 16-20</b>	Mon-Friday	Spring Break – all campuses closed
<b>Mar 30</b>	Monday	Unit 9 - Short Film Series 3
<b>Apr 6</b>	Monday	Unit 10 – Readings/Learning Materials and Discussion 3 with 2 replies
<b>Apr 13</b>	Monday	Unit 11 - Readings/Learning Materials and Connection Assignment 8 and 9
<b>Apr 20</b>	Monday	Unit 12 - Short Film Series 4
<b>Apr 27</b>	Monday	Unit 13 – Readings/Learning Material and Discussion 4 with 2 replies
<b>Apr 30</b>	Thursday	<b>Last Day to Drop</b>
<b>May 4</b>	Monday	<b>Unit 14 - Final Exam</b>
<b>May 7</b>	Thursday	Classes end
<b>May 8</b>	Friday	Graduation

**This calendar is subject to change.** Students will be notified in class and/or through Blackboard of any changes.