

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

American Multicultural Studies (AMCS)

AMCS 200 WRITTEN AND ORAL ANALYSIS (3)

Students practice the techniques of critical reading and thinking, of expository writing and of oral expression through an in-depth examination of race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism and its impact on American cultural, political, and social institutions. They examine the principles of thinking, speaking, and writing with a view to the multiple purposes for which these activities are crucial. Satisfies GE, Category A1. Prerequisites: Completion of GE Categories A2 and A3.

AMCS 210 ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICA (4)

Survey and analysis of the diverse experiences of major ethnic groups in their present socioeconomic and political position in American society as depicted in literary, historical, anthropological, and sociological studies. Satisfies ethnic studies in GE, category D1. This course satisfies one of the core requirements of the AMCS major.

AMCS 255 ETHNICITY IN THE HUMANITIES (3)

A general survey of the major artistic and expressive developments in the U.S. with reference to native ethnic populations. An assessment of how race and ethnicity are represented in the arts, humanities, media, and popular culture. This course satisfies one of the core requirements of the AMCS major. May be taught with a focus on a single racial or ethnic group. Satisfies GE category, C4.

AMCS 330 MULTICULTURAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (4)

A survey of the origins and histories of a wide range of racial and ethnic groups in the United States. This course will explore the social, economic, and political evolutions of various groups in an effort to understand their positions in the United States today. It will also focus on the development of various racial categories and identities throughout the American past.

AMCS 339 ETHNIC GROUPS AND AMERICAN SOCIAL POLICY (3)

The impact of American social policies on ethnic minorities. Topics include public policy issues related to employment, immigration, education, mental health, and minority children and families. The impact of major court decisions affecting public policy and ethnic minorities will also be examined. Course might be taught from single ethnic group's perspectives. Satisfies upper-division ethnic studies in GE, category D1.

AMCS 345 FOLKLORE AND ETHNICITY (4)

Methods and materials dealing with the traditional expressive culture of American ethnic groups; oral literature, festivals, children's games, customs, and beliefs. Includes training in collecting oral traditions and in the analysis of folklore texts and contexts. Topics subject to change.

AMCS 350 ETHICS, VALUES AND MULTICULTURALISM (3)

An examination of how issues of race, ethnicity affect the values and ethics of American society and its citizens. Students will be expected to assess how their views about race in the U.S. have been influenced by their upbringing and how their values and ethics reflect those views. This course satisfies one of the core requirements of the AMCS major. May be taught as a general survey or with a focus on a single racial or ethnic group. Meets ethnic studies and upper-division GE requirements in Area C3.

AMCS 355 LANGUAGE AND ETHNICITY (3-4)

A study of language as an ethnic marker; language and ethnic identity; language and national revival; bilingualism and bi-dialectism; standard and nonstandard speech; foreign accents; linguistic assimilation vs. language retention. Satisfies upper-division ethnic studies in GE, category C4.

AMCS 360 ETHNIC LITERATURE (3)

A survey of the representative novels, short stories, essays, biographies, and poetry of various ethnic authors in the United States. Satisfies upper-division ethnic studies in GE, category C2.

AMCS 370 TOPICS IN ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL STUDIES (4)

A course enabling students to conduct in-depth study of a specific area of ethnic culture. The course may cover subject topics as Asian American Cinema, Multicultural Autobiography, or African American music. Topics subject to change. May be repeated for credit with instructor's permission.

AMCS 374 THE MULTIRACIAL EXPERIENCE (4)

A general survey of the historical and contemporary experience of people claiming more than one racial or ethnic background. Emphasis will be given to inter-racial relations, the impact of political and social factors, and the cultural expressions of the multiracial experience.

AMCS 376 AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (4)

A historical examination of the African American experience from the pre-colonial period to the present. This course will pay special attention to cultural and sociological aspects of African American history with a particular focus on the impact of gender and class. This class asks students to use historical analysis to understand race relations in the 21st century.

AMCS 377 ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (4)

A course designed to explore areas of contemporary, historical or artistic concern as these affect the Asian American experience. Advanced studies and/or research projects will be discussed and analyzed.

AMCS 381 RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (2-4)

Student assistance to help faculty with research on the experiences of people of color in America. Topic matter and research agenda will be discussed with faculty. By individual arrangement with faculty sponsor.

AMCS 385 FACILITATION TRAINING (2-4)

Facilitation pedagogy training in active learning situations within established courses. Prerequisite: junior/senior status with satisfactory completion of either AMCS 210 or 255. By individual arrangement with instructor.

AMCS 392 ETHNIC IMAGES IN FILM AND MEDIA (3)

An examination of representative and significant works, tracing the evolution of ethnic images in cinema and media from their earliest to latest manifestations. Topics subject to change. Satisfies upper-division ethnic studies in GE, category C1.

AMCS 395 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (1-4)

Course provides students with practical experience in various community organizations and health and social service agencies and educational settings. Includes schools, recreation programs, tutoring programs, day care centers, cultural arts organizations, civic promotion organizations, etc.

AMCS 399 STUDENT INITIATED COURSE (1-4)

Student initiated and instructed courses on topics that enrich or extend current departmental offerings. Students may take up to 4 units of AMCS 399 courses for major credit.

AMCS 405 BLACK FAMILY LIFE IN AMERICA (4)

Using sources from a wide range of disciplines, including literature, film, sociology, and history, students will review and assess major cultural themes surrounding black family life. Students will also be expected to explore how these narratives reflect larger issues of race and ethnicity in the United States.

AMCS 420 GENDER AND ETHNICITY (4)

A historical overview of racism and sexism as they affect women of color, focusing on issues in which racism and sexism intersect, e.g. affirmative action, abortion, sterilization, violence against women, and other issues.

AMCS 430 TOPICS IN MULTICULTURAL HISTORY (4)

Subjects will vary by semester, but this course will concentrate on topics and periods in American Multicultural History. Students will be required to do a research project in this course. Students will also be asked to review primary documents in American Multicultural History. May be repeated for credit with instructor's permission.

AMCS 431 ETHNIC HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA (4)

A historical examination of the major ethnic and racial groups in California and their influence on the Californian present and future. This course will look at environmental, social, demographic, geographical, sexual, political, and economic issues specific to California and its minority populations.

AMCS 432 HEALTH AND CULTURE (4)

An analysis of cultural and ethnic influences on health and health behavior, with an emphasis on developing strategies for bridging cultural disjunctions between health professionals and their clients, and for improving health care delivery to an ethnically diverse population.

AMCS 439 CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (4)

A study of major court decisions, legal battles, and/or social movements that have influenced American's understanding of the civil rights and human rights that govern our society. This course will engage student understanding of the relationship between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Course may use a multicultural perspective or focus on a single racial or ethnic group.

AMCS 445 MULTI-CULTURALISM AND EDUCATION (4)

An analysis of the philosophical and definition issues related to pluralistic education; developing resources germane to this philosophy and the guidelines constituting the foundation for multiethnic educational programs and ethnic studies.

AMCS 460 MULTI-ETHNIC CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4)

A study of multiethnic children's literature. Stories from folklore and literature are used to exemplify cultural images and traditions.

AMCS 470 ADVANCED STUDIES IN ETHNIC CULTURE (4)

A course enabling students to conduct in-depth study of a specific area of Ethnic culture. The course may cover subject topics as Asian American Cinema, Multicultural Autobiography, or African American music. Topics subject to change. May be repeated for credit with instructor's permission.

AMCS 475 GLOBALIZATION AND RACE IN THE UNITED STATES (4)

The United States, as one of the destination countries of diasporic peoples in this era of globalization, has often responded to the crises of globalization through racialization. This course emphasizes the importance of understanding this crisis and explores the possibilities of creating anti-racist strategies and new social movements.

AMCS 476 SELECTED TOPICS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (4)

Subjects will vary by semester, but this course will concentrate on topics and periods in African American History. Students will be required to do a research project in this course. Students will also be asked to review primary documents in African American history. Topics subject to change. May be repeated for credit with instructor's permission.

AMCS 477 SELECTED TOPICS IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (4)

A course designed to explore areas of contemporary, historical, or artistic concern as they affect the Asian American experience. Advanced studies and/or research projects will be discussed and analyzed. Subject matter will vary. Topics subject to change. May be repeated for credit with instructor's permission.

AMCS 480 RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY (4)

Survey of research and methodological tools used in the study of American ethnic groups. Special attention is given to the problems of objectivity and bias and the political and moral implications of quantitative and field research. This course satisfies one of the core requirements of the AMCS major.

AMCS 481 SPECIAL TOPICS (1-4)

Please refer to current Schedule of Classes.

AMCS 485 SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

Directed studies in a seminar setting on a particular topic or theme. Combines secondary reading and original research leading to the completion of a research project. Please see Schedule of Classes for the topic selected by the instructor.

AMCS 487 SENIOR THESIS (4)

Students in the major, with faculty supervision, may elect to write a thesis in order to qualify for graduation with distinction in American Multicultural Studies. Prerequisite: AMCS 480.

AMCS 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)

Independent study. Prerequisite: AMCS 210 or 255; a core upper-division course; approval of supervising faculty member and approval of department chair.

AMCS 499 SERVICE LEARNING INTERNSHIP (1-4)

Course provides students with practical experience in various ethnic community organizations and in health/social service/educational settings. Includes recreation programs, tutoring programs, day care centers, cultural arts organizations, civic promotion organizations, etc.