

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## American Multicultural Studies (AMCS)

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### AMCS 165A HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

AMCS 165 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas, and fulfills GE Ethnic Studies.

### AMCS 165B HUMANITIES LEARNING COMMUNITY (4)

AMCS 165 A/B is a year long course, which features weekly lectures and small seminars. It constitutes a Humanities Learning Community (HLC) for any first-year student. The learning objectives of the HLC will satisfy A3 (Critical Thinking) and C3 (Comparative Perspectives and/or Foreign Languages) GE Areas, and fulfills GE Ethnic Studies.

### 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 Area A1. Prerequisites: Completion of GE Categories A2 and A3. Students who received a passing grade in AMCS 225 may not enroll in AMCS 200 without instructor consent.

### 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 Area D1. This course satisfies one of the core requirements of the AMCS major.

### AMCS 225 HOW RACISM WORKS: AMERICA IN BLACK AND WHITE (4)

Students analyze the ideological aspects and material conditions of American life through an in-depth examination of the impact of race and ethnicity on U.S. history and its cultural, political, and social institutions. The course will concentrate particularly on investigating how racism works in the 21st century through the study of literature and values. Fulfills GE Area C2 and the Ethnic Studies requirement. Students who received a passing grade in AMCS 200 may not enroll in AMCS 225 without instructor consent.

### AMCS 245 THE FUTURE OF IDENTITY: SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE MULTICULTURAL SELF (4)

Students will explore what it means to be a multicultural self through the creative uses of technology and social media. This course is based on the premise that identities shaped by social media can be grounded in the principles of participatory presence of self and place that heals the disconnect with ethnicity, community, place, and history. Satisfies GE Area C2 and Ethnic Studies.

### AMCS 260 ETHNICITY IN THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND MEDIA (4)

Students will explore the impact that the arts, media, and humanities have had on perceptions of race, ethnicity, and identity in the United States. The course will integrate a wide variety of forms — including film, theater, and music — to encourage student appreciation of artistic endeavors. Fulfills GE Area C1 and the Ethnic Studies requirement.

### AMCS 273 AMERICAN DIVERSITY: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE (4)

This course explores the relationships between race, ethnicity, and identity through close readings of social, historical, and cultural texts. At the heart of the course is an exploration of how race and ethnicity have impacted collective understandings of this nation's morals and values. Satisfies GE Area C2. Only one course numbered 273 in the Arts & Humanities will be considered for credit. Prerequisite: completion of GE Category A2 (Engl 101 or ENGL 100B) required.

### AMCS 301 AFRICANA LECTURE SERIES (1)

A weekly lecture series offering presentations and discussions that focus on historical and contemporary topics relating to people of African descent. This includes, but is not limited to, African Americans, Continental Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, and Afro-Latinos. This lecture series is in honor of Dr. Levell Holmes and his contributions to the Sonoma State University community. Lectures are open to the community. May be repeated for credit.

### 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 Area D1.

### AMCS 350 ETHICS, VALUES, AND MULTICULTURALISM (4)

This course examines theories and discourses of race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism and their impact on American thought and practice. Students will explore questions of ethics and values that shape the U.S. as a multicultural society and learn about conceptual tools they can apply in thinking critically about these issues in the various contexts they live in. Satisfies GE Area C2, and the Ethnic Studies requirement.

### AMCS 355 LANGUAGE AND ETHNICITY (4)

An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the interrelationships between language, ethnicity, and the symbolic conflicts over language issues in the U.S. Explores the politics of language — e.g. the English-Only debates, bilingual education issues, and minority language rights and cultural issues — and their impact on different ethnic groups. Examines the responses of affected groups through their literary and creative expressions. Satisfies the Ethnic Studies requirement and GE Area C3.

### AMCS 360 ETHNIC LITERATURE (4)

A survey of representative novels, short stories, essays, biographies, and poetry of various ethnic authors in the United States. This course may also provide an in-depth study of one or more specific ethnicities (e.g. Asian American, African American, the poetic tradition in ethnic literature, women in ethnic literature, etc.) and may include multimedia instruction such as film, music, and visual art. Satisfies GE Area C2. Satisfies the upper-division Ethnic Studies requirement.

### AMCS 370 GENDER IN ASIAN AMERICA (4)

This course originates in WGS 370. This interdisciplinary course examines gender, race, class, and sexuality in Asian America. We consider how Asian American women and men fit into debates about sexism and racism in the United States - historically and contemporarily. Topics include Asian American participation in women's/civil right movements as well as popular culture representations. Cross-listed as WGS 370.

**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 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- or senior-level standing with satisfactory completion of either AMCS 210 or 255. By individual arrangement with instructor.

**AMCS 390 INDEPENDENT FILM STUDY (1-2)**

In this course students will attend Sonoma Film Institute screenings or other film-related lectures or events, and will submit a written film analysis following each film screening. Students must consult with their advisor to enroll in this course. Pre or corequisite: LIBS 320C "Intro to Film Studies/Film Theory and Narrative." This course is repeatable for a maximum of 4 units of course credit. Cross-listed with LIBS 390.

**AMCS 392 ETHNIC IMAGES IN FILM AND MEDIA (4)**

An examination of representative and significant works in film and other visual media tracing the evolution of racial and ethnic images from their earliest to latest manifestations. Examines how systems of representation shape the racial and ethnic discourses in U.S. society. Satisfies GE Area C1 and the Ethnic Studies requirement.

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

**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 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 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.

**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. Students engage in semester-long research projects. Students can substitute CALS 458 Research and Methodology for this course.

**AMCS 481 SPECIAL TOPICS (1-4)**

Please refer to the current Schedule of Classes.

**AMCS 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)**

Independent study. Prerequisites: AMCS 210 or 255, a core upper-division course, approval of the supervising faculty member, and approval of the department chair. May be repeated for credit.

**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.