



Instructor	Office	Office Hours	Contact Info
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This interdisciplinary survey examines the historical, economic, social and cultural development of minorities in the U.S. Topics may include race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, and religion. Core curriculum course. **3 credits Prerequisite:** ENGL1301 or higher.

### **COURSE FORMAT**

Our course is an online course. All work is to be completed online. You should expect to sign in to our course **AT LEAST** twice a week. If you are uncomfortable with any of the technology used to navigate this course, consider dropping it and signing up for an in-person course. I will not be helping students with “technical difficulties.”

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

In this course we will explore the minority experience in the U.S. as an object of academic study. Our main approaches will be sociological, historical, and autobiographical but we will also be exploring other forms of expression and documentation that provide insights into experiences of American minorities including poetry and visual art. The course will work through different types of minority groups including racial/ethnic minorities, women, the LGBTQ community, and the disabled. We will also examine the intersections between the experiences of these varied minority groups as well as the difficulty that arises when we try to articulate a collective “minority” experience. These explorations will be further complicated by the facts that one doesn’t always belong to only one minority group and that one’s belonging to a minority group is not voluntary. Furthermore, one of the chief concerns in this class will be to examine the highly charged concept of identity as it is affected by the categories in question gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and ability/disability. All this will be done in an attempt to foster critical analysis of the issue of difference in our society and to develop a more nuanced and informed perspective on the life experiences (emphasis on the plural) of non-dominant groups in the U.S.

### **CORE OBJECTIVES FOR LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY, & CULTURE**

This course is in the 2014 core area, “Language, Philosophy, Culture.” Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience.

Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

1. **Critical Thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
2. **Communication:** to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
4. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

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 identities.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

The texts below are required for our course. They should be available for purchase at the HCC bookstore. I prefer that you purchase the actual print books but digital copies are fine too as long as the student holds him/herself accountable for any issues that may arise due to the difference in format (page numbers, etc). Go here to find your textbooks at HCC Bookstore Online:

<http://hccs.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=19561>

Price Match Announcement from HCC Bookstore: <http://facultyenlight.com/price-match>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN #</b>
<i>A Different Mirror: A Multicultural History of Am.</i>	Ronald Takaki	9780316022361
<i>Women, Race, and Class</i>	Angela Davis	9780394713519
<i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	Harriet Jacobs	9781593082833
<i>House Built on Ashes</i>	Jose Antonio Rodriguez	9780806155012
<i>Stiches</i>	David Small	9780393338966

Other required readings will be provided to you in class as copies or in the form of links for you to access online. See section on **CANVAS COURSE PAGE**.

### **A NOTE ON THE READINGS**

This course has what I consider a medium to heavy reading load. You will be expected to read anywhere from 60 to about 175 pages a week and sometimes you will be simultaneously working on assignments. While some of our readings will come from a book that takes a “historical” approach, most of our readings are not “textbook” reading. We have memoirs and a graphic novel, so those reading assignments tend to be assigned in bigger chunks because they are easier to get through. A good grade in this class is only possible if you can dedicate adequate time to your reading assignments. Falling behind on readings will affect your grade significantly. However, students are often still successful if they read at least 85% of the material.

### **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Quizzes/Exercises	25%
Exam # 1:	20%
Exam # 2:	20%
Book Review	10%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Video Presentation	10%

### **EXPLICATION OF GRADE BREAKDOWN CATEGORIES**

**Quizzes & Exercises:** Quizzes will be over the assigned readings and will test for basic comprehension. Quizzes are meant both as motivation for you to read and as confirmation that you have read. Quizzes will have anywhere from 5 to 10 questions and usually will be timed. You will only have one attempt per quiz and you should not attempt the quiz until you have read the material. You may have your material with you when you take the quiz; however, because the quiz is timed, having the material with you will not help you unless you’ve previously read it. You will have anywhere from about 10 to 12 quizzes in this class.

You will also have a few exercises assigned for this class. You will have a total of about 5 to 8 exercises. The total number of grades for this entire category (Quizzes & Exercises) will be no fewer than 12 and no more than 20. Quizzes and assignments from this category are **NOT ACCEPTED LATE** regardless of excuse. For this reason, you should make it a habit to complete your work ahead of time. All assignments and quizzes will be posted with at least a two-day window for you to complete them. In order to still account for possible emergencies, two grades from this category will be dropped. **DO NOT ASK FOR EXCEPTIONS to be made to this submission policy. No late submissions are excepted, period. If you are enrolled in this class, you are agreeing to this policy.**

**Exams:** There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. The exams will be timed and will be made up of matching quotes with speaker or text, short answer questions, and two essays (30+ sentences, approximately 475 words each). You will only be allowed **ONE ATTEMPT** per exam. The exams will be taken online. Because you will have a window during which to complete your exam, late exams are also **NOT ACCEPTED** except in cases of extreme emergencies. The legitimacy and level of the student’s emergency is to be

determined by the instructor. Student must provide immediate notice if missing an exam's deadline. Student must provide documentation of emergency to be allowed to submit the exam at a later time.

**Book Review:** A book review will be due toward the end of class. You will be asked to choose from a list of books and write an 800 word review of the book. Further instructions will be provided. Because this is a major writing assignment, **I do accept late submissions with a grade penalty.** Late submissions will lose 5 points per day that they are late.

**Annotated Bibliography:** For this course, you must produce an annotated bibliography on the topic covered by the book that you choose for your book review. Further instructions will be provided. Because this is a major writing assignment, **I do accept late submissions with a grade penalty.** Late submissions will lose 5 points per day that they are late.

**Video Presentation:** As a final assignment for this course, you will be asked to produce a video of your book review and research findings. Further instructions will be provided. Because this will be the last assignment due in our class and it will be due on the last day of class or close to it, **NO LATE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Extra Credit:** There will be two extra credit opportunities this semester. One assignment will replace your lowest quiz/exercises grade and another will be worth up to 6 points on the exam of your choice.

### **HCC GRADING SCALE**

A = 100 – 90;.....4 points per semester hour  
B = 89 – 80: .....3 points per semester hour  
C = 79 – 70: .....2 points per semester hour  
D = 69 – 60: .....1 point per semester hour  
F = 59 and below: .....0 points per semester hour  
IP (In Progress) .....0 points per semester hour  
W(Withdrawn).....0 points per semester hour  
I (Incomplete).....0 points per semester hour  
To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

### **CLASS POLICY ON GRADING**

Remember grades of A are given to exceptional work; grades of B are given to above average work. If you meet the standard, you only deserve a C. If ever you are unclear about what is expected of you, ask the instructor promptly. Do not wait until after the assignment or assessment is completed to address this.

### **HCC POLICIES**

**Student Handbook:** Students are responsible for all information in the *Student Handbook*. The *Student Handbook* can be accessed here:

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

**HCC Online Policies:** All students are responsible for reading and understanding the *HCC Online Student Handbook*, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. For the *HCC Online Student Handbook* click on the link below:

<http://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/HCC-Online-Student-Handbook.pdf>

The *HCC Online Student Handbook* contains policies and procedures unique to the HCC Online student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as HCC Online contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars.

**Academic Calendar, Drops, Refunds, Etc.:** The academic calendar posted online has information regarding drop dates and refund dates, etc. You may see it at the link below.

*\*Familiarize yourself with the academic calendar:*

<http://www.hccs.edu/student-experience/events-calendar/academic-calendar/>

**Class Attendance:** As stated in the HCC catalog, all students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students in DE courses must log into their Eagle Online class **at least weekly** and actively participate or they will be counted as absent. Although it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw officially from a course, the professor also has the authority to block a student from accessing Eagle Online, and/or to withdraw a student for excessive absences or failure to participate regularly. Students who do not log into the class *and* participate in the introduction forum and a minimum of one other activity due (*at a minimum*) by the Official Date of Record will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped for nonattendance. Completing the DE online orientation does not count as attendance.

**Withdrawal Policy:** You may drop yourself or ask your instructor to drop you. You may drop yourself through your HCCS Student Center page (student log-ins). Check the academic calendar for the last day to withdraw and receive a grade of W.

**Important Notice Regarding Withdrawals:** Students must withdraw by the withdrawal deadline in order to receive a "W" on a transcript. Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online Academic Calendar, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC advisor to determine class withdrawal deadlines.

Be certain you understand HCC policies about dropping a course and consult with a counselor/advisor to determine if withdrawing is in your best interest. It is your responsibility to withdraw officially from a class and prevent an "F" from appearing on your transcript. Senate Bill 1231 and limits the number of W's a student can have to 6 classes over the course of their entire academic career. This policy is effective for students entering higher education for the first time in fall 2007 and subsequent terms. Withdrawals accumulated at any other Texas public higher education institution count toward the 6 course total. Withdrawals for certain circumstances beyond the students control may not be counted toward the 6-drop limit.

In addition, withdrawing from a course may impact your financial aid award or eligibility. Contact the Financial Aid Office or website to learn more about the impact of withdrawing on financial aid. Furthermore, students who must repeat a course face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and at other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, talk to your instructor or counselor about your study habits, reading skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

**Repeating Courses:** As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student repeats a course in which a grade (AF) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

**Scholastic Honesty:** According to the Student Handbook for the Houston Community College System, scholastic dishonesty includes cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion and is punishable by a grade of 0 or F on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College. A recommendation for suspension or expulsion will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary disposition. Plagiarism includes using another person's words or ideas as your own and/or incorporating them into your own work without quotation marks (if using exact phrasing) and correct citation. Collusion includes any "unauthorized collaboration" with your classmates or any other students—present or past—in the composition of work that you claim as your own. **Plagiarism, collusion, or cheating will result, at a minimum, in a grade of 0 for the assignment.** You will not be allowed to rewrite plagiarized work or retake quizzes or exams on which you cheated or plagiarized. **More than one instance of plagiarism, collusion, or cheating in this course will result in a final grade of F without further discussion.** **Please note also that "accidental" plagiarism or collusion will result in the same penalties stipulated above.** Information on plagiarism will be available on your course page; if this is still not enough to clarify to you what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to contact me for clarification or to inform yourself through research.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Under no circumstances is it appropriate for you to tell the instructor the grade you "need" for this course. It is absolutely unprofessional and unethical to come to the instructor of this class with your personal issues regarding your college grades and academic status/situation. If you are concerned about the grade you will receive make sure you sign in to the course several times a week, complete all the readings on time and carefully, complete all your quizzes, exams, and assignments on time, and communicate with me if you have questions about an assignment. Take advantage of office hours as well. You may also seek extra help from the various tutoring services available. Finally, you may come to me to explain why you may be struggling in the course and we can work on a solution together if a reasonable one is possible. **However, asking me to give you a grade you have not yourself earned is unacceptable behavior. Any instance of this will be reported to the chair of the department.**

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The following is a list of some of the support services available for students:

- Library: We have a great library at your disposal. Please visit the library course page for more information. <http://library.hccs.edu/home>
- Open Computer Labs: There are different computer labs open to students on different campuses. Visit campus management at each campus for more information.
- Tutoring: We have tutoring services for most subjects and in multiple campuses as well as online. For more information, visit <http://ctle3.hccs.edu/alltutoring/>
- Advisement & Counseling: <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/advising/>

## **REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS**

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. Anyone who needs to arrange reasonable accommodation must contact the Ability Services Office: <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

It is advised that the student also immediately discuss any accommodations needed with the instructor whether or not those accommodations have been officially requested through the Ability Services Office.

## **DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX**

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex – including pregnancy and parental status— in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to: *David Cross, Director EEO/Compliance*  
*Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity*  
*(713) 718-8271*  
*3100 Main*  
*Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)*

## **CAMPUS CARRY**

At HCC the safety of our students, staff and faculty is our priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the

HCC Campus Carry web page at the following web address:  
<http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

### **EGLS3—EVALUATION FOR GREATER LEARNING STUDENT SURVEY SYSTEM**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the EGLS3 as part of the Houston Community College Student System available online:  
**[hccs.edu/EGLS3](http://hccs.edu/EGLS3)**