ISS 2160: Cultural Diversity in the United States

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Lee-Ann Laffey
Email: leelaff@ufl.edu or the Canvas Inbox
Phone: (352) 371-9698
Prerequisites: None
Credits: 3
Semester: Spring 2017

COURSE TEXTBOOK


Dual enrollment students enrolled in a public high school will be provided with all material and software needed to complete this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Diversity in the United States offers a platform for discussing the many kinds of diversity we encounter in the United States today. This course will attempt to dispel the notion of diversity as merely a synonym for racial or ethnic issues. Through the study of diversity consciousness and training we will attempt to better understand prejudices and discrimination in the United States. As we explore various types of diversity including racial, political, sexual, gender, religious, ethnic and any others that arise from our discussions, we will examine both the positive and negative experiences that have arisen from laws, actions, cultures, feelings, and protests in the United States.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The first goal of this course is to dispel the myths you may have heard or experienced concerning the nature of diversity and to help you attain a working definition and understanding of what diversity means in the United States.

You will also be asked to think about the benefits of Diversity Education and Training and how this may help reduce the number of prejudicial incidents in the future. We will also identify personal and social barriers to success and how they are related to diversity. This course will also help you to better grasp multiple types of prejudice and discrimination that exist in the United States. You will also begin to understand the different types of prejudice and discrimination that existed both in the past and present in the United States and how they have impacted our world. You will also learn about cultural encapsulation, enculturation, classism, sexism and their occurrence in American workplaces and schools. Another goal of this course is to help you to better understand the power of language.

You will gain a better understanding of how communication and culture are interrelated and how miscommunication has been the cause of more than one war. You will come to know that your surroundings, race, religion, politics and ethnicity, as well as, many other factors can create barriers to
effective communication. In this course we will explore different types of communication, “hot buttons” “micro aggressions” and linguistic stereotypes and how they alter our communication in a diverse world. You will also learn about effective strategies for inclusive communication, the value of a team based approach to leadership, as well as conflict management skills and the ability to think critically.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

Module 1: Diversity, Diversity Consciousness and Diversity Education  
**Module 1 Assignments due Jan 13**

Module 2: Our Changing Cultural Landscape  
**Module 2 Assignments due Jan 20**

Module 3: Diverse Meanings of Success  
**Module 3 Assignments due Jan 27**

Module 4: Price of Diversity Consciousness in the Workplace  
**Module 4 Assignments due Feb 3**

Module 5: Personal and Social Barriers to Success  
**Module 5 Assignments due Feb 10**

Module 6: Prejudice and Discrimination  
**Module 6 Assignments due Feb 17**

Module 7: Defining and Developing Diversity Consciousness in the Workplace and Education  
**Module 7 Assignments due March 3**

Module 8: The Power of Language: Tools, Barriers, and Hot Buttons  
**Module 8 Assignments due March 10**

Module 9: Teamwork and Diversity  
**Module 9 Assignments due March 17**

Module 10: Leadership Diversity and Conflict Management  
**Module 10 Assignments due March 31**

Module 11: Culminating Experience  
**Module 11 Assignments due April 7**

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Students must have and regularly check a valid email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email accounts at least twice per week or more often depending on progress in the course.

By signing up for an online course, students certify that they have reliable access to a computer and the internet. In order to take these courses, students need to have a web browser, a word processing program, a program for reading Acrobat documents, and other programs for example Windows or real...
Media to view/hear multimedia content.

If a student does not already have these programs, many options are available including these free options:

- Multi-platform Web Browser: Mozilla Firefox\textsuperscript{1} or Internet Explorer\textsuperscript{2}
- Word Processing: OpenOffice\textsuperscript{3}
- Acrobat Reader: Adobe Acrobat

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS
All assignments must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59 pm on the day that they are due.

\textbf{NOTE:} If you do not have Microsoft Office or other software capable of saving documents in one of the file formats identified above, you can download the OpenOffice software suite. OpenOffice is an open-source designed office productivity suite that has comparable components to Microsoft Office. Please reference OpenOffice’s comprehensive help files for instructions in its effective use.

GRADING
Grading Criteria
Your course grade will be determined as follows:

1. Nine (9) Written Review Short Answer Questions - 10 points each for a total of 90 points
2. Eight (8) Discussions - 20 points each for a total of 160 points.
3. Six (6) Short Essay Assignments - 40 points each for a total of 240 points.
4. Final Assignment – 100 points

\textbf{Total course points: 590 points.}

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\textbf{Letter Grade} & \textbf{Description} & \textbf{Percent Value} \\
\hline
A & Excellent & (94\%-100\%) \\
A- & (90\%-93\%) \\
B+ & (87\%-89\%) \\
B & Good & (84\%-86\%) \\
B- & (80\%-83\%) \\
C+ & (77\%-79\%) \\
C & Fair & (74\%-76\%) \\
C- & (70\%-73\%) \\
D+ & (67\%-69\%) \\
D & Poor & (64\%-66\%) \\
D- & (60\%-63\%) \\
E & Failure & (59\% and below) \\
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The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. **Grades are not given out over the phone.**

**GRADING STANDARDS**
Here is the meaning behind the grades I assign to your papers (you should use these statements to determine how you might work toward a higher grade):

Students will be assessed on accuracy of the factual material represented in their respective answers, as well as, creativity and detailed descriptions where applicable. Each assignment has a point value and specific requirements. To earn full credit the student must cover all points asked by the question and provide adequate supporting materials, references and details. Before answering, carefully examine what the question is asking you. If the question asks you for your opinion be sure to include reasons, experiences and backup information. For essay type questions or papers you need to create a well-organized paper with a beginning, middle and end. Be sure to start with a solid introduction and thesis statement and then support it with details and explanations that you demonstrate throughout your essay. Be sure not to be too general in your responses and be sure to cite, quote and reference any information you obtain from other sources.

**DROPPING OR WITHDRAWING FROM A COURSE**
- Students wishing to drop a UF Dual Enrollment course after drop/add deadline must contact their UF Dual Enrollment advisor to discuss process.
- All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/procedures. Students must contact their UF Dual Enrollment advisor to discuss process.

**TO REQUEST A UF TRANSCRIPT**
There are two ways to order a transcript:

1. Via the online ordering system at [Student Self Service](#) webpage.
2. If you cannot use the online system, please contact the UF Office of the University Registrar for instructions to mail in a request with a check or money order. They can be contacted by phone Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Please check your “unofficial transcript” first, before ordering your “official transcript”, to make certain that your grade has been posted.

**UF POLICIES**

**ONLINE STUDENT CONDUCT**
Students are expected to abide by the University of Florida’s code of student conduct, including the rules
NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY
All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code.

Plagiarism:
“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

(a) Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.

(b) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.”

Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041.

“For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

(a) Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.

(b) Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an ‘E’.”

Source: Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.047.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS
Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

The Dual Enrollment office should be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.
GETTING HELP

Technical Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Location: HUB 132
- Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- Website: https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

UF Dual Enrollment Contact Information:

Litza Echeverria or Mikaela Williams
mailto:Recruitment@coe.ufl.edu
https://education.ufl.edu/dual-enrollment/
Phone: (352) 273-4155

Other Help Resources:

Other resources are available at the UF Distance Learning website for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please email the Distance Learning office at distance@dce.ufl.edu or visit the UF Distance Learning website to submit a complaint.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.