

PSU 3, sec. 38-39: First Year Seminar

Fall 2006

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General Information

PSU 3, Sec. 38-39: "Diversity and How it Made America" -- This course is designed to show how the "melting pot" that is America is what made the United States the nation that it is today. We will examine the contributions of minorities on the development of the sciences, medicine, law, and the overall society in which we live. We will also broaden the definition of the term minority. Students will be randomly assigned a specific minority for a short individual research paper and group presentation.

Attendance: University regulations state that a student should attend **every** scheduled class (Policies and Rules for Students section 42-27). Frequent absence from class is unacceptable. If you miss a class it is **your** responsibility to determine what material, announcements, handouts, graded papers, etc., were missed due to your absence. There will be no make-ups for missed lectures or recitations. You should arrange for one of your classmates to hold returned papers in the event you are absent when papers are returned. I do not assume responsibility for holding papers if you are not there to pick them up, or have not made arrangements for someone else to pick them up. I will, of course, **try** to hold unclaimed papers for a few days.

Class lectures : ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED AND IS PART OF YOUR GRADE.

Office Hours (C-127 Smith) will be announced in lecture. Additional hours may be announced, and the office hours may be changed if I do not have students utilizing the posted hours. If you cannot attend regular office hours, please leave me a message. I will check my personal campus voice mail at least once each weekday.

Computing the Course Grade: The **tentative** grade scale is as follows.

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
95 or more	A
92 or more	A-
88 or more	B+
85 or more	B
82 or more	B-
75 or more	C+
70 or more	C
60 or more	D
Less than 60	F

Components:

- Individual Research Paper (20%)
- Group Presentatiuon (20%)

A perfect score will be used for the remaining 60% of your grade. You will then lose 5 percentage points from your final grade for each of the following if missing.

- Attendance and Participation -- Lose 5 points for each absence

- Cultural Events/Activities -- Must attend 2 such events and write a 1-page reaction paper about the event/activity
- Inclass and out of class assignments

Dropping the Course: Contact the Office of the Registrar, in room 111 Smith. No course can be dropped after the end of the drop period. This date, and your final exam time and date, as well as other useful information is always appended to the copy of course offerings for any semester. This usually occurs just before or just after the **THIRD** scheduled examination in this course (This semester, the third exam is scheduled before the last day to drop). **Caution!** in dropping courses is advised because of a maximum (during your entire PSU tenure) allowed number of credits you may drop between the end of the "free" drop period until the end of the allowed drop period (when you have to pay to drop).

Campus Statement on Academic Integrity, adopted by the Altoona Campus Faculty Senate on March 19, 1985.

"Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citation, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized prior possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students." (Policies and Rules for Students, Section 49-20)

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

"The penalty for academic dishonesty in less serious cases consists of a failing grade for the work or test where this misconduct occurred. *This decision is made by the instructor.* For more serious cases of dishonesty, the penalties are more severe, (including automatic failure for the course, probation, suspension or expulsion from the University), and formal due process procedures are available for the student and faculty involved. Section 49-20 of the Policies and Rules for Students provides the details on these procedures."

Scheduled Classes Not Met:

In **Extraordinary** circumstances (which have occurred from time to time in the past, and which will occur from time to time in the future), when classes are missed due to reasons other than instructor illness, power failures, weather, and the like, in which the missed classes are not made up), missed classes will be rescheduled if possible, in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar. Any such rearranging and rescheduling would be announced in class so that appropriate arrangement could be made by all.

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Section 38 meets at 4:00-4:50 in 108 Holt.

Section 39 meets at 12:00-12:50 in 202 Holt.

Tentative Weekly Assignment Schedule For Fall 2006 Semester

Fri. – sec. 38-39	Topic
Sept. 8	Introduction.
Sept. 15	Computer Center, 259 Hawthorn
Sept. 22	Library, 259 Hawthorn
Sept. 29	Choosing Courses + Careers
Oct. 6	Study Day, NO CLASS
Oct. 13	Celebrates Diversity
Oct. 20	Time Management
Oct. 27	African-Americans
Nov. 3	Asian-Americans
Nov. 9	Women Jewish Americans
Nov. 16	Catch-up Day
Nov. 24	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Dec. 8	Native Americans Gay/Bi Americans
Dec. 15	Hispanic Americans
