

Department of Humanities
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
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Hours of Availability:
Tuesday and Wednesday, 12p-4p
Thursday, 12p-2p



Ethnicity and Religion in the United States

Monday, 6:00-8:45pm
Teleconference

Course Description

This course explores the history of ethnicity and religion in the United States. These two topics are often examined separately, but they intertwine heavily throughout the history of the country. We will explore the subject both chronologically and topically through both readings and research.

Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, lectures, class discussion, and writing.

Importance of Communication

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat.

If you cannot meet during my hours of availability you can request another time when you are available. Please just email me to set up a time.

Resources

For this course your readings will be made available on Blackboard under the course resources tab. See the folder that corresponds with the class week listed on the syllabus.

The resources provided are for your use only for this class. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any major revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know when to obtain an updated syllabus from Blackboard.

Absences

You are expected to attend class. Class attendance is critical to doing well on the assignments and succeeding in the course. If you have to miss a class, be sure to work with another student to obtain good notes for that day.

Grading

Exams	300 points
Teach a Topic	100 points
Semester Project	200 points

Your semester grade will be the number of points you receive on the items listed above divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you receive 540 points among the assignments that is 540 divided by 600 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A in the class.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course. It is best to keep up with your scores on assignments to know how you are doing.

Participation

This class will be interactive. I will give talks on certain subjects, but we will also discuss topics quite a lot. This is especially important in a class that only meets once a week. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

Writing Assignments

The main semester project will be a research paper based in oral history. This project will result in a 15-page final paper. We will discuss this project further in coming weeks.

Exams

The exams in this course will each cover approximately 1/3 of the material. Each test will be available on Blackboard one week before the due date/time. These are at-home tests that will focus on understanding rather than memorization. Please see the tests for instructions.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1

Monday – January 16

- **Introduction**

Week 2

Monday – January 23

- **The Intersection of Ethnicity and Religion**

Week 3

Monday – January 30

- **Oral History**

Week 4

Monday – February 6

- **Native Americas**

Week 5

Monday – February 13

- **Southwest**

Week 6

Monday – February 20

- **Early European Immigrants – Class 1**

Week 7

Monday – February 27

- **Early European Immigrants – Class 2**

Week 8

Monday – March 6

- **Challenges for Minorities**

Week 9

Monday – March 13

- **No Class – Spring Break**

Week 10

Monday – March 20

- **Asians on the West Coast**

Week 11

Monday – March 27

- **Black Faith before and after the Civil War**

Week 12

Monday – April 3

- **White Religious Development**

Week 13

Monday – April 10

- **Latino Religious Development**

Week 14

Monday – April 17

- **TBD**

Week 15

Monday – April 24

- **TBD**

Week 16

Monday – May 1

- **Draft of Semester Project Due**

Week 17

Monday – May 8

- **Final Project Due – May 9 at 9pm**