American Studies (AMST) 202  
Diversity in America  

Fall 2012  
Syllabus  

Cohorts meet M-F at the following times, dates, and place:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Meeting Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>06:30-08:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12B</td>
<td>08:30-10:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12C</td>
<td>11:10-13:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12D</td>
<td>13:10-15:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aug 27-31  
Sep 17-21  
Oct 15-19  
Nov 05-09  
Dec 03-07  

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Building 2, Room 216  

I. Instructor Information  

Sharleen Nakamoto Levine, Ph.D.  
Office: Bldg. 2 Rm. 206  
Office Hours: Tu/Th: 15:00-15:30  
M/W/F: 06:00-06:30; 10:30-11:00  
Email: snnl@hawaii.edu  
Course Website: http://laulima.hawaii.edu  

II. Course Description  

American Studies 202 (Diversity in America) examines the creation of a multicultural, multiracial society through an analysis of the ways that ethnicity, gender, race, citizenship, sexuality, and other factors provide distinctive outlooks on the American experience and ideals. Students will explore social processes (such as stereotyping, prejudice, and racism), group identity, and contemporary issues. The course will introduce the student to the interdisciplinary study of American society through the synthesis of theories, concepts, and insights from history, social science, and literature. It will give the student a sense of history and shared experience through an analysis of key American novels and historic events.
III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of AMST 202, the student should be able to:

1. Explain continuities and changes in the values of the dominant American culture and minority American cultures.

2. Identify major themes in literary works that deal with the American experience such as *Giants of the Earth*, *The Jungle*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

3. Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of American values and experiences in a historical context, such as the Progressive Era or the Great Depression.

4. Use critical thinking questions to assess and evaluate primary source materials (speeches, literary texts, autobiographical narratives, photographs, song, etc.).

5. Develop and defend a historical argument about diversity in America with primary and secondary sources.

6. Explain how various disciplines in the humanities provide different approaches to studying diversity in American life.

7. Engage in discussions in a way that allows for critical examination, but is respectful of different values and attitudes.

8. Identify ways in which Americans have sought to define citizenship and civic duty.

9. Explain how a historical understanding of diversity in American life is relevant to your life and community today.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed using knowledge surveys, reflective summaries, small and large group discussions and activities, class presentations, and a field experience report.

IV. Required Course Materials

1. *Giants of the Earth*, by Ole Rolvaag

2. *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair

3. *The Grapes of Wrath*, by Sinclair Lewis

4. Supplementary readings, handouts, and digital resources as provided by the instructor.

*Bring syllabus and assigned reading material to class everyday!*
V. Instructional Procedures

This course emphasizes active learning strategies in small or large group collaboration. Class sessions include: skill-building activities, individual and collaborative projects, individual and group presentations, discussions, reflective writing, readings and analysis, and observations and critiques of material relating to American Studies. This course also utilizes Laulima.

VI. Disability Statement

Students in this class who need accommodations for a disability should submit documentation and requests to the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) at HCC in Bldg. 2, Room 108A. Phone 845-9282 voice/text or 845-9272 voice/text for more information. The instructor will work with you and SSD to meet your access needs based on disability documentation. If you have already registered your requests with SSD this semester, please contact the instructor and be prepared to provide a current verification letter from SSD.

VII. Course Requirements, Assessment, and Assignments

Academic Requirements

Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner with care and commitment to each task.

All assignments except the final presentation and quizzes are graded on a 2 point scale (0, 1, or 2). A zero (0) means that expectations are not met. A one (1) means the work reflects a satisfactory understanding of the assignment and topic at hand. A two (2) means the work demonstrates thoughtful reflection and/or analysis, and is clearly communicated through the use of appropriate media and conventions (use spell and grammar check to edit your own writing before turning it in). The final presentation will be graded on a rubric that will be distributed in advance. The quizzes will be graded on a 10 point scale.

Assignments are weighted differently based upon assignment expectations and the relative estimated time to complete an assignment. A weighted multiplier is used for each assignment to convert the points received for each assignment into an overall percentage of the course grade (see table below).

All assignments will be submitted on Laulima in the Forums section before class on the day the assignment is due. Use a standard 12pt. font and standard 1-inch margins, double-spaced. Computers are available for student use at PHNSY and in the HCC Computer Lab in Building 2, Room 405, tel. 845-9293 (HCC ID required). As noted in the Class Schedule you may also be required to bring some assignments to class in order to share them with others.

Bring syllabus and assigned reading material to class everyday!
## Overview of Assignments, Point Value, and Percentage of Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Assignment Points Possible</th>
<th>Weighted Multiplier (possible pts./assignment)</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Homework Reflection and Class Participation (includes reading/writing preparation, and demonstrated through participation in class discussions and learning activities) (24x)</td>
<td>48 (2pts x 24)</td>
<td>.5 (1 pt. possible/session)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Blog (2x)</td>
<td>4 (2pts x 2)</td>
<td>1.25 (2.5 pts possible/blog)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I.D. Quizzes (3x)</td>
<td>30 (10 pts. x 3)</td>
<td>.2 (2 pts possible/test)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Project Preparation Assignments (5x)</td>
<td>10 (2pts x 5)</td>
<td>4 (8 pts possible/assignment)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final Project Presentation (1x)</td>
<td>15 (15 pt. rubric)</td>
<td>1 (15 pts possible)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Review of Field Experience (1x)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 (10 pts possible)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>109</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.917</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Pearl Harbor requires a C to pass the course, otherwise you will be required to repeat it. **You will earn a 0 for the following reasons** - turning in a blank or unsatisfactory assignment; cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment; or not making up an assignment within the allotted time.

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1. Preparation, In-Class Participation, and Absences

Your preparation and in-class participation is expected, required, and graded. Because much of the work for this course is done/experienced during class time, any student who misses more than 5 days of class for any reason will be required to repeat the course. If you are absent, contact me or a classmate to obtain the day’s lesson and announcements.

Come prepared and on time with all required materials for each class session. At the very least you will need to bring your syllabus, the reading material to be discussed, something to write with (pen/paper), and any assignments that are due.

Common courtesy and respect for each other is expected during and outside of class. You are not expected to agree with the perspectives of others, but you are expected to agree to disagree in a cordial and respectful manner (see SAFE Zone below for details).

PHNSY Classroom Conduct Reminders (via PHNSY apprentice coordinator):

Attendance: If you are arriving late or need to depart early for any reason, you need to report to the front office. No loitering outside of the classroom during class time.

Cell phones and pagers: Not allowed in class for any reason. If you are seen using a cell phone, you will be sent to the front office. This is a security violation.

Dress code: Students may wear long pants, shirts with sleeves, and covered shoes. No tank suits (tyvek or other), no tank tops, no slippers, no shorts, no clothing with inappropriate slogans, no “revealing” clothes.

Trash: No paper may be disposed of in classroom trash cans, but may be thrown away in the classroom paper bin (cardboard box). To prevent indoor bug and rodent infestations, all food and beverage trash must be disposed of in trash cans outside the building.

Please direct questions and concerns regarding these rules to Beverly Higa.

2. Blog

For some weeks, you will be responsible for posting a reflection on Laulima regarding the course material and activities. Your blog should follow the directions and deadline posted on Laulima (late blogs do not allow other students or the instructor adequate time to read, respond to, and evaluate them). Your blog should be a reflection that demonstrates critical thinking, and the ability to address others’ ideas seriously and respectfully. Your reflection should not be just a factual report or summary of the assigned course material. The instructor will provide questions to direct the discussion and promote analysis.

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3. I.D. Quizzes

The quizzes will test your understanding of course material that has been covered in class and homework to date.

4. Project Preparation Assignments

You may work on this individually or with a partner. In order to help prepare you to present a final project during the last few weeks of the semester (5-10 minute presentation), you will be provided with mini-lessons on project preparation in class, and required to turn in related homework assignments that help you to develop the project step-by-step, including:

A. Choose Topic
B. Write Annotated Bibliography
C. Read and Take Notes from Primary and Secondary Sources
D. Write Thesis Statement
E. Outline Presentation

5. Final Project Presentation (5-10 minutes)

The final project will involve choosing to work either alone or with a partner. It will involve choosing a contemporary diversity problem in the United States, and researching its historical roots in Hawai‘i and another state by analyzing a variety of primary and secondary sources.

The final project presentation will involve creating a presentation (such as a model, web page, mini documentary, live dramatization, song/rap/poem, etc.) that illustrates how knowing the history behind a contemporary diversity problem in two states can raise awareness about it and possible approaches to resolving it. The presentation should use evidence drawn from relevant primary and secondary sources. By completing this project, you will have the opportunity to practice the Student Learning Outcomes for this course. Further details about the project’s requirements will be provided in a handout that includes a project presentation rubric.

6. Review of Field Experience

After completing the project, you are responsible for applying something you learned from the project in the real world for one or more hours. You should choose to do something that you are not in the habit of doing. The purpose is to allow you the opportunity to demonstrate, in a practical and meaningful way, how an understanding of an historical problem has the potential to impact and/or change your own behavior and actions (Student Learning Outcome #11). You may choose to do something that relates your project topic with your trade or the community you live or work in.

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Afterwards, you will write a 2-3 page, double-spaced review of the experience, which is due on the last meeting (Dec. 7). The review should be posted on Laulima, and a hard copy should also be brought to our last meeting. At our last class meeting, you should be prepared to share your field experience with the class in small and/or large group discussions.

**Late Assignments**

*Points will be deducted for any late assignments without instructor approval.* It is your responsibility to contact Dr. Nakamoto in a timely manner if you are faced with unusual circumstances that may require an extension, and/or if you do not understand something about a particular requirement/assignment.

**VIII. Effort and Assigning Grades**

Grades in this course will be assigned based on performance only. The instructor has no way to measure how long you studied, or how hard you may have tried. If you wish to dispute a grade, you may do so. Understand that disputes will be adjudicated based on the grading rubric for the assignment, and references to effort and time spent will have no effect. Appeals to the need of a grade for GPA reasons, or the need to pass in order to graduate also will have no merit in adjudicating grading disputes.

Daily preparation and participation grades and grades for assignments cannot be redone or made up in order to earn full credit (2 points). However, for project or blog assignments, you may see me in advance of the deadline if you would like feedback about your work.

Grades are assigned using the following percentages:

- A= 90-100
- B= 70-89
- C= 50-69
- D= 40-49
- F= 0-39

**IX. Student Conduct Code**

Students in this class will be expected to follow the HCC and UH student conduct code (http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/policies/scc.pdf), as well as PHNSY rules.

**X. SAFE Zone**

This classroom is a Safe Zone. You may disagree with other students or the instructor, but you are required to listen/read with respect and to address others’ ideas seriously and respectfully. We can have a debate without intimidation or anger. Disruption, intimidation, or other forms of physical, verbal, or digital abuse or harassment will result

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in expulsion from the class temporarily or permanently and will have a negative impact on grades up to and including a failing grade for assignments and/or the course as a whole.

XI. Ethical Behavior and Plagiarism (Copying)

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. All work you submit as yours must include proper documentation and crediting of sources. Failure to properly introduce and document paraphrased material or borrowed ideas is plagiarism. Further, any re-use of another student’s work is also plagiarism. According to the UH Student Conduct Code, any instance of plagiarism is grounds for expulsion. See the UH General and Graduate Information Catalogue under “Student Regulations” and the UH Student Conduct Code for specific guidelines related to plagiarism.

My policy is very simple. If you plagiarize once, you fail the assignment on which plagiarism was found. There is no appeal and no credit. If you plagiarize twice, you fail the course, and the Administration will be notified. I do not bend on this.

XII. Keeping Records of Your Work

Keep all assignments you turn in for class. If the instructor requires copies in order to verify grades, you must be able to provide them. This is the responsibility of the student, as well as the instructor, and helps to avoid the problems that can occur in the event of unintentional loss of data.

XIII. Technology Problems and Class Work

We all use technology, and we all need to learn to manage it effectively. Problems with servers, computers, connections, and modems, among so many others, are all a part of life. They are not emergencies, and they are not an excuse for late work. Make allowances for the possibility of technology failure. Do your work early and often. Back up everything you do for this course, including emails. Email lost in cyberspace, a broken server connection, or a virus-infected computer will not be accepted as excuses or reasons for late work. If you need access to computers or assistance with using them, you may go to the PHNSY computer lab, or the HCC Computer Lab in Building 2, Room 405, tel. 845-9293 (HCC ID required).

XIV. Weekly Reading and Assignments

Before class each week, you are expected to complete the assigned reading, project work, and any other work for the week posted on the Course Schedule (see Laulima). Reading should help to familiarize you with the course material for the week and enable you to participate fully in class learning activities. The analytical skills, communication skills, and historical background that you develop through reading and discussion should help you to carry out your history project.

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Changes? This syllabus may be adjusted as needed if unexpected educational opportunities arise, or if unavoidable conflicts occur.