

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

Transfer course A.A. degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: AMS 100 American Culture and Identity

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

Appropriate language skills.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

Identity and values, such as the arts, beliefs, and social forms, as expressed in lifestyles. Regional and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to build a dynamic model of American culture and its impact on Americans and the world.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A successful student will:

1. Relate the methods and theories of various academic disciplines such as the social sciences, behavioral sciences, and humanities to a core concept of American culture.
2. Survey a broad perspective of American heritage with a focus on the development of ideas which help form an American identity.
3. Analyze artistic expression and its reflection of cultural ideas.
4. Develop and analyze beliefs and values in relationship to social institutions.

5. Apply different forms of data needed to understand a complex and pluralistic culture.
6. Through critical investigation of specific subjects such as sexual orientation, differing abilities, etc., will through debate and dialogue understand minority points of view different from "standard" American culture.
7. Develop an academic environment for building ideas and concepts into a cultural identity in a pluralistic society.
8. Deepen an understanding and appreciation for the social and cultural history of America through reading about the experiences of members of this pluralistic society on the basis (and intersection) of concerns related to ethnic backgrounds (with particular attention to African Americans, Native Americans, Mexican Americans and their historical roots in the United States, Japanese Americans, and other subgroups that include Italian Americans and Jewish Americans), socioeconomic class, gender, age, and different abilities.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. Foundations of American Culture
 - A. Land
 1. Geographic Regions
 2. American Conservation and Land Policies
 - B. People
 1. Indigenous People. (20,000 B.C.- A.D. 1590)
 2. Immigrant Patterns (A.D. 1590 - Present)
 3. Culture Regions in the U.S. (i.e., food, language style)
 - C. National Identity
 1. Formation of American Images and Values
 2. National Character and Culture
 - D. Study of American Culture
 1. Humanities
 2. Social Science Methods and Theory
 3. American Studies
 4. Women's Studies
- II. American Society and Identity
 - A. Immigration to America

Key Concept: Cultural Identity

Suggested Topics

 1. Cultural Assimilation
 2. Language, Lingua Franca
 3. Foods
 4. Schools of Thought
 5. Folk Culture Isolates
 - B. Political Systems in America

Key Concept: Authority & Power & its impact on differing abilities & socio-economic class

 1. Emerging Democracy
 2. Free Market, Business, Labor
 3. Capitalism, Banks, Insurance
 4. Militarism & Pacifism

- C. Social Systems in America
 - Key Concept: Gender Group Identity, Ethnicity & Age
 - Suggested Topics
 - 1. Gender Studies
 - 2. Ethnic & Minority Groups
 - 3. Rebellion & Revolution
 - 4. American Town and City
 - D. American Ideals & Education
 - Key Concept: Freedom
 - Suggested Topics
 - 1. Liberty and Democracy
 - 2. God & Country - Religious Freedom
 - 3. Cultural and Religious Pluralism
 - 4. Educate the Masses
 - 5. Aging America & Youth-oriented economy
- III. Artistic Freedom in America
- A. Fine Arts & Music in America
 - Key Concept: Classical American Form--Avante Garde
 - Suggested Topics
 - 1. Architecture and Furnishings
 - 2. Painting and Sculpture
 - Early Landscape--Modern
 - 3. Literature: The American Poet & Novelist
 - 4. Classical Music--Schools
 - B. Folk Art in America
 - Key Concept: Regions--American Creativity
 - Suggested Topics
 - 1. Native American
 - 2. New England
 - 3. Pennsylvania Dutch
 - 4. Southwest: Hispanic
 - 5. African Slave
 - C. Folklore and Music
 - Key Concept: American Spirit
 - Suggested Topics
 - 1. Native American Folklore & Music
 - 2. Colonial Folklore & Music
 - 3. African American Folklore & Music
 - 4. Asian American Folklore and Music
 - 5. Hispanic Folklore and Music
 - 6. Bluegrass & Country Music
 - 7. Blues & Jazz
 - 8. Popular Music
- IV. Futurism & America
- A. Development of Foreign Involvement
 - B. Development of Americanisms & their effect on the "Global Society"

REQUIRED READING:

At least two texts from the following which will together cover specific ethnic and gender groups in 5a of the Multicultural Requirement:

Brown, Wesley, and Amy Ling, eds. Visions of America: Personal Narratives From the Promised Land. New York: Persea Books, Inc., 1993.

Colombo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle, eds. Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing. Second Edition. Boston: St. Martin's Press, 1992.

- Fossum, Robert H. and John K. Roth, eds. American Ground. New York: Paragon House, 1988.
- Laguardia, D. and H.P. Guth. American Visions: Multicultural Literature for Writers. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing, 1995.
- Pack, Robert, and Jay Parini, eds. American Identities. Hanover: Middlebury College Press, 1994.
- Wooden, Howard E. Two Centuries of Life and Art in America. Palo Alto: Stanford Press, 1987.

Fiction/Non-fiction Reviews (See outside assignments)

Select handouts provided for specific targeted cultures when applicable

SUGGESTED READING:

U. S. review and American character topics.

Selected handouts from:

Varene, Herve, ed. Symbolizing America. Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1986.

REQUIRED WRITING:

- a. Four American culture reviews (3-5 pages each) from four of the following areas:
 - American fiction
 - American non-fiction (biography, science, social science, etc.)
 - American art form/artist
 - American composer/song writer
 - American film/film maker
- b. Time capsule report: One year in one particular city/region of the United States. Cultural lifestyle is to be created with economic, socio-cultural, artistic, and values reflected in a material time capsule that will include 10 items. 3-5 pages.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

1. Reading assignments and test preparations.
2. Reviews require outside research, reading, and reference compilation.
3. Time capsule report requires outside research.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Suggested percentages:

Mid-term Exam	40%
4 Reviews, 10% each	40%
Time Capsule Report	20%
Total:	100%

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit:

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Patricia A. Dixon, ext. 2427