The University of Texas at San Antonio
Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies

BBL 5003 Foundations of Bicultural Studies

Note: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Catalog course description: The study of basic concepts, principles, and approaches regarding theories of biculturalism and multiculturalism, and theoretical frameworks for the interdisciplinary study of culture and society.

Rationale: Biculturalism and multiculturalism are complex processes requiring examination within the context of wider patterns of sociocultural pluralism. The concept of sociocultural pluralism refers to the existence of multiple systems or subsystems of human organization within a single socioeconomic or political unit, such as the nation-state. Biculturalism and multiculturalism refer to the interaction of different cultural systems, and their impact on individuals and groups, in both private and public domains of experience. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to an interdisciplinary perspective of sociocultural processes in the study of culture and society. We will also examine the metaphorical meaning of boundaries, borders, and the global, through a lens of gender, race, and commoditization.

Objectives: Through an interactive process that involves engagement of course readings, lectures, discussions, and course assignments, students will be able to:

(a) Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) in the study of sociocultural pluralism in nation-states;

(b) Develop skills in expressing self orally and in writing through facilitating class discussion and the writing of essay papers;

(c) Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view by comparing and contrasting cases of bicultural groups and multicultural situations, through the use of fundamental social science concepts and ethnographic cultural analysis to explain and critique cross-cultural research.

Required Texts:

Requirements for the successful completion of this course: Attendance is taken but is not part of the overall grade. Students though will benefit greatly from attending class since there is an in class essay expected during the majority of class meetings. This essay will reflect the student’s understanding of the readings and a critical evaluation of the principles, themes, and theory presented by the writer. There are ten of these essays throughout the semester and each is worth six points. Group presentations are worth twenty points total, there are enough people in class to form six groups of four individuals each. Each of the six groups will present twice during the course of the term, each presentation is worth ten points (2 x 10 = 20). There is a final essay exam worth forty points of the total grade. This essay will be written in class during the final exam period. It is not an open book, open note exam. Students will come prepared to write on any subject chosen by the instructor which we will have covered during the semester. Make-up work is not permitted except in terms of following the rules set by the university in observance of religious practices. Unlike in the case of other BBL courses, essays are to be written in English except for the use of another language to emphasize a point or a particular theory. Guidelines for class presentations will be passed out and discussed during the second class meeting. In class essays should be three pages in length and succinct in its analysis.

Grading break-down:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In class essays</td>
<td>6 points x 10 essays = 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentations</td>
<td>10 points x 2</td>
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<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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A = 100 – 90; B = 89 – 80; C = 79 – 70; D = 69 – 60; below a D is a failing grade.