

**HST 371: Race and Minority Cultures in the United States**  
**Distance Education**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Term: Spring 2006**

**Dates: 11 Feb. - 25 May 2006**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Loni Bramson

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Office hours: By appointment only.

**Instructional/Learning Needs:** Students with disabilities who may need accommodations should inform the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

**Course Description:** Indian, Spanish-speaking, African-American, and Asian ethnic groups in United States history. Cross-cultural comparisons.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Use critical thinking to evaluate historical changes and their impact on United States society and culture.
- Recognize and appreciate the contributions of racial and ethnic minority cultures to United States society.
- Analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources.
- Identify culturally based assumptions that have influenced the perception and behavior of people in the past.
- Communicate effectively through written and other assignments.
- Think critically about the relationships between past and present events and issues.

**Required Texts:** 1) Ronald Takaki, *A Larger Memory: A History of Our Diversity with Voices*, 1998, ISBN 0-316-83169-7 (HC) or 0-316-31162-6 (PB). 2) Yvonne Haddad and John Esposito (eds.), *Muslims on the Americanization Path?*, 2000, ISBN 0-19-513526-1. 3) Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 2004, ISBN 0-312-40357-7. 4) Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish Became White*, new ed., 1995, ISBN 0-415-91825-1. 5) Mary Crow Dog with Richard Erdoes, *Lakota Woman*, ISBN 0-06-097389-7 (PB) or 978-0-06-097389-6. 6) Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, ISBN 0-440-31488-7. 7) Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ISBN 0-06-050577-X. 8) Brenda Child, *Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940*, ISBN 0-8032-1480-4 (HC) or 0803264054 (PB).

*A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* = PGWH

*A Larger Memory* = LM

*Muslims on the Americanization Path* = MAP

*How the Irish Became White* = HIW

*Lakota Woman* = LW

*Coming of Age in Mississippi* = CAM

*Coming to America* = CA

*Boarding School Seasons* = BSS

**General Class Rules to create a supportive and collaborative learning environment:**

- Being courteous to everyone.
- Treating every person and each perspective with respect.
- Being attentive.
- Being a good communicator.
- Critiquing any position or argument is part of academic debate, but must be done respectfully and courteously. It requires backing up your argument with examples, analyses, and references.
- Critiquing anyone's position, including the professor's, is encouraged, but no personal attacks are allowed.

**Student Responsibilities:**

- All work is to be completed on time.
- Online discussion is very important. Participation in these discussions is required. If a student is on the borderline between two grades, the quality of his or her online participation will determine whether the higher or lower grade is given. Please note, if you do not keep up with the reading assignments, then you will not be able to adequately participate in the discussions.
- All questions are good and are encouraged. If you are wondering about something, then probably other students are as well.
- Think, read, and write critically. College-level work requires critical thinking and reading at all times, including in discussions and in writing assignments. Critical thinking and reading require you to understand, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize.

**Course Evaluation:** Out of 282 or 342 possible points.

- ◆ Online participation: 72 possible points.
- ◆ One presentation of your research project: 20 possible points.
- ◆ One book review (3-4 pages): 30 possible points. **Due in Module 8.**
- ◆ Nine reading response papers (3-4 pages): 90 possible points. **Due by midnight the last day of each module.**
- ◆ A 10-12 page research paper: 60 possible points. **The final paper is due 25 May.**
  - **The proposed topic is due in Module 2.** This is worth 5 additional points.
  - **The proposed bibliography is due in Module 3.** This is worth 5 additional points.
  - **The research design is due in Module 5.** This is worth 20 additional points.
  - **The final draft is due in Module 7.** This is worth 40 additional points.
  - **The research paper is due in Module 9.**

**Grading Scale:** Possible grades are A (90-100), B+ (87-89), B (80-86), C+ (77-79), C (70-76), D (60-69), and F (59 or below).

**Pedagogical Philosophy:**

- It is my opinion that every form of evaluation should serve a pedagogical purpose. In terms of the assigned written work, you may give me as many drafts of your work as you wish for my comments. In other words, there is no reason why each and every one of you should not receive an A in the course. If you wish to have me comment on a draft, please make sure that I have sufficient turn around time.
- I prefer to use participative collaborative learning. This means that we are all learners together. We create our learning community together. I hope to be more a facilitator of your learning than a “lecturer.” I will learn from you as well.

**General Course Organization:** This course is organized in modules. All group meetings and work must be completed and turned in no later than the end of the module. During each module you are required to participate in at least 8 online discussions. Starting a discussion counts as participation as well. Online participation counts toward your grade. All written work must be saved in Word or WordPerfect. When sending an attachment, make sure that the file name distinguishes the course, the name of the student, and the assignment. I teach more than one distance education course. If I accidentally delete a file because I could not determine who it came from and why it was sent, it is the responsibility of the student.

**Late Work and Makeups:** Late work is accepted, but marked down. It will under no circumstances receive an A grade. It is better to turn in your work late, although you will not receive an A, than not to turn it in at all and receive no points.

**Incompletes:** A grade of Incomplete (I) will only be given for an emergency situation. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my permission. Together we will establish a contract that will include strict time limits. All uncompleted work must be turned in within the time limits set by the contract. If you do not turn in the missing work, then your course grade will be calculated with the missing portion counting for zero (0) points.

**Extra Credit Book Reviews:** You may submit a supplementary 3-4 page book review for extra credit. Only the books listed in the course bibliography can be used. See instructions for writing book reviews in the Writing Instructions. You can earn a possible 10 extra credit points for each extra book review. I will not evaluate rough drafts of extra credit book reviews. (A = 10 points. B+ = 9 points. B = 8 points. C+ = 6 points. C = 5 points. D = 3 points. F = 2 points if the review shows that you have read the book.)

**Extra Credit for Bookmarks:** If you find a website that I consider good enough to add to my website links, then you will receive one extra credit point. If you inform me that one of my links is dead or has moved, then you will receive one extra credit point. Only one person can receive extra credit for each new URL or informing me of a particular link that has a problem.

**Using the WWW for Your Research and Work:** It is dangerous to use the WWW for academic work. Some websites are excellent. Some will cause you to lose points because they are not of academic quality. If you wish to use a website for your work, I must approve it beforehand. The links on my website are all approved. However, further links on the approved URLs on my website have not been verified and therefore are not preapproved.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is using someone else's words, ideas, or works without properly acknowledging them. Proper referencing avoids this problem. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the assignment and possibly the entire course. The student may also be subject to further college sanctions.

**Flexibility Caveat:** The instructor may change the course assignments or evaluations in response to institutional or class needs.

### **Course Calendar and Schedule**

**11 Feb. - 25 Feb.:** Module 1. Colonial America. Reading: CA 3-118, LM 3-44.

**26 Feb. - 11 March:** Module 2. Case Study: The Irish in America. Read: CA 121-184, LM 47-55, 112-128, HIBW 1-228. **Proposed topic due.**

**12 March - 25 March:** Module 3. The Age of Immigration. Read: CA 185-284, LM 56-111, 129-187. **Proposed bibliography due.**

**26 March - 1 April:** Module 4. Case Study: American Indian Boarding Schools. Read: BSS xii-xvi, 1-133.

**2 April - 8 April:** Module 5. Our History to about WWII. Read: CA 287-327, LM 188-261. **Research design due.**

**9 April - 22 April:** Module 6. Case Study: Coming of Age in Mississippi. Read: CAM 3-424.

**23 April - 6 May:** Module 7. The Modern Era. Read: CA 328-459, LM 262-353. **Final draft due.**

**7 May - 13 May:** Module 8. Case Study: American Indian activism. Read: LW 3-263. **Book review due.**

**14 May - 25 May:** Module 9. Case Study: Muslims in America. Read: MAP 3-46, 65-127, 145-333. **Final paper due.**

Then said a teacher, Speak to us of Teaching.

And he said: No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness.

If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.

The astronomer may speak to you of his understanding of space, but he cannot give you his understanding.

The musician may sing to you the rhythm which is in all space, but he cannot give you the ear which arrests the rhythm nor the voice that echoes it.

And he who is versed in the science of numbers can tell of the regions of weight and measure, but he cannot conduct you thither.

For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.”

Excerpt from *The Prophet* written by Kahlil