

Standard Course Outline

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Communications & Arts Division
Humanities

HUMN 1013 **Exploring Cultural Diversity**

Catalog Description:

An introduction to the various cultures which contribute to the diversity of the United States, in general, and Northwest Arkansas, in particular, through presentations by representatives of various cultures and the study of fiction, non-fiction, art, music, film, theater and research projects.

Prerequisites: None.

Credit: 3 hours **Contact:** 3 hours **Load:** 3 hours

Target Audience and Transfer: All students with a desire to understand culture and the value of cultural diversity in an increasingly complex global environment. This course will transfer as a general elective but may or may not transfer as a Humanity credit. It will depend on the receiving institution.

General Course Outline: Exploring Cultural Diversity is a student-centered learning experience the purpose of which is to provide the student with an understanding of the concept of culture. Using that understanding the student will analyze his own personal culture and, as a comparative exercise, study a variety of cultures, which contribute to the diversity of the United States, in general, and Northwest Arkansas, in particular. Through the study of fiction, non-fiction, film, the arts, research, and personal interview the student will develop a sensitivity and appreciation for cultural differences while recognizing the common traits that bind together all of humankind.

During the second half of the course, we will join with the Foreign Language Department and the Intercultural Exchange Club to celebrate a multi-ethnic FIESTA of food, music and costume.

Required Texts and Materials:

Instructor prepared materials

Topics:

Defining culture
Defining student's personal culture
Hispanic culture
African american culture
Native american culture
Jewish culture
Regionally represented non-Christian religions
Gay and lesbian culture

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The culture of old age
The world of the physically handicapped
Welfare

Required Activities:

Cultural readings
Field trips to art and cultural centers
Guest speakers from diverse cultures
Panel discussions
Personal interview
Internet research
Role playing
Lecture

Required forms of Assessment:

Portfolio: A portfolio is the most important component of the course and, therefore, of your grade. It will consist of the accumulation of all the work you have done during the semester and reflect what you have learned about culture, difference and about yourself during the course including: essays, impressions, vocabulary, profiles, research notes, special events, etc. Appropriate and thematic artwork must be a part of your portfolio. Your artwork can be self-produced, clippings, or contracted. Your portfolio will be graded twice, once at mid-term and again on the last day of class.

- Your personal cultural profile
- Vocabulary
- Cultural Profiles (5)
- Readings or movies (4)
- The Arts - Impressions and observations of music, visual arts, performing arts of diverse cultures (2)
- Portfolio must be decorated with appropriate art.

Term Project: The student will choose a non-anglo ethnic, national, or religious culture and do an in-depth study of that culture.

Exams: The Mid-term Exam will include vocabulary, concepts and essays on general themes. The Final Exam will be primarily general essay.