Humanities 122 – 002

Contemporary Culture and the Arts: The Cultures of Immigration
Spring 2016
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am to 12:15 pm, Room 2535

Dr. Peter Hudis
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I. Course Prefix Number Name Credit Lecture Lab
HUM 122-002 Contemporary Culture and the Arts 3 3 0

II. Prerequisites: None

III. Course (Catalog) Description:
Course concentrates on culture and arts of the last fifty years, with focus on appreciation and critical evaluation of contemporary culture. Content provides interdisciplinary perspectives on literature, music, drama, visual arts, architecture, TV, film, and cultural theory, as well as forces that influence the arts.

IV. Learning Objectives:
After completing the class, students will be able to:
A. Describe some important cultural, intellectual and artistic developments of the last sixty years.
B. Explain and appraise the global interconnections and dimensions of these developments and exemplify the rich cultural diversity of our contemporary culture.
C. Identify, interpret and assess some major contemporary works from a minimum of four distinct art forms – taken from literature, performing arts, music, visual arts, architecture, photography, film, television and digital or cybernetic art.
D. Recognize the elements of the basic art forms presented and the interrelationships of these art forms.
E. Analyze and evaluate some acknowledged art works using the basic analytical and critical vocabulary associated with the art forms studied.
F. Analyze and evaluate these cultural, intellectual and artistic works in their historical, social, political, and economic contexts.
G. Explain cultural theory, identify and describe the main concepts in a variety of theoretical approaches and apply some of these concepts in debates about important ideas regarding the production of art and its relationship to culture.
H. Exhibit values related to teamwork and collaboration, fostered by the pedagogy of shared-inquiry and critical dialogue appropriate to the humanities and philosophy.

V. Academic Integrity:
Students and employees at Oakton Community College are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow Oakton’s Code of Academic Conduct. This code prohibits:
- cheating,
- plagiarism (turning in work not written by you, or lacking proper citation),
- falsification and fabrication (lying or distorting the truth),
- helping others to cheat,
• unauthorized changes on official documents,
• pretending to be someone else or having someone else pretend to be you,
• making or accepting bribes, special favors, or threats, and
• any other behavior that violates academic integrity.

There are serious consequences to violations of the academic integrity policy. Oakton’s policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made against you. If you are found to have violated the policy, the minimum penalty is failure on the assignment and, a disciplinary record will be established and kept on file in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for a period of 3 years.

Details of the Code of Academic Conduct can be found in the Student Handbook.

VI. Outline of Topics:
The focus of this course is the cultural, social, philosophical and political dimensions of immigration to the United States, especially since 1960. In addition to three books, there are several other required readings (see below), which can all be found and downloaded from D2L.

Background to and Context of the Debate Over Immigration

Tuesday, January 19: Presentation of Syllabus and Introduction

Thursday, January 21: The History of U.S. Immigration Laws

Tuesday, January 26: The Immigration Debate in Historical Context
Reading: “A Nation of Immigrants” and “Between Necessity and Freedom,” in Crossing into America, pp. 270-313.

Thursday, January 28: Why Refugees? Why Now?
Reading: Roger Cohen, “Germany, Refugee Nation” [This is Available on D2L]

Tuesday, February 2: Political and Moral Dimensions of the Refugee Crisis
Reading: “The Morality of Migration,” by Seyla Benhabib and “Enforcement of Immigration Laws During the Obama Presidency” [Both are available on D2L].

Thursday, February 4 and Tuesday, February 9: Globalization and Migration
Reading: Chapter 3, “Displacement and Migration,” in Illegal People, by David Bacon, pp. 51-82.

Thursday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 16: Film: Life and Debt

Thursday, February 18: The Labor of the Migrant
Reading, Chapters 4 and 5, “Fast Track to the Past” and “Which Side Are You On?” in Illegal People, pp. 84-165.

Tuesday, February 23: Review of the Debate Over Immigration
Use Study Guide No. 1 to Prepare for this Class

Thursday, February 25: TEST NO. 1
The Literature and Film of Migration

Tuesday, March 1: **Film: La Ciudad**  
Reading: Chapter 2, “Why Did We Come,” in *Illegal People*, pp. 23-49.

Thursday, March 3: **The Literature of Mexican Migration**  

Tuesday, March 8: **Borderlands: The Development of Chicano/a Consciousness**  
Reading: “Towards a New Consciousness,” by Gloria Anzaldúa [This is available on D2L].  
**PAPER NO. 1 DUE ON Tuesday, March 8**

Thursday, March 10: **Philosophical Reflections on Mexican Migration**  

**MARCH 1-14: SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES**

Tuesday, March 22: **Aspects of Immigration from South America**  

Thursday, March 24: **The Cultural Impact of Puerto Rican Immigration**  

Tuesday, March 29 and Thursday, March 31: **Film: Which Way Home?**

Tuesday, April 5: **TEST NO. 2**

Thursday, April 7: **The Contours of Haitian Immigration**  

Tuesday, April 12: **Literature of Immigration from Cuba and the Dominican Republic**  
Readings: From *Immigrant Voices*, “Otravida, Otraitve,” by Junot Díaz, pp. 97-114; From *Crossing into America*, “Our Papers,” by Julia Alvarez and “We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?” by Achy Obejas, pp. 15-20 and pp. 161-177.

Thursday, April 14: **The Cultural Impact of Jamaican Immigration**  

Tuesday, April 19: **The Literature of African Immigration**  

Thursday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 26: **Racism and the Problem of Assimilation**  
Reading: “The Fact of Blackness,” by Frantz Fanon [This is available on D2L]
Thursday, April 28: Literature of Middle Eastern Migration
Reading: “To See and See Again,” by Tara Bahrampour, in Crossing into America, pp. 39-56 and “Mother the Big,” by Porochista Khakpour, in Immigrant Voices, pp. 31-54.

Tuesday, May 3: Literature of Eastern European and Russian Immigrants

Thursday, May 5: The Contours of Asian Immigration

PAPER NO. 2 DUE ON Thursday, May 5

Tuesday, May 10: Transnational Communities: The New Immigrants

Thursday, May 12: FINAL EXAM

VII. Methods of Instruction:

The course will involve lectures, as well as seminar style discussions and small group activities. Students will be expected to participate actively and to come prepared for discussion. This means students should have read all assigned material prior to class meetings.

VIII. Course Practices Required:

A. Students are expected to attend each class. If you want to pass this course with either an A or a B, then regular class attendance and participation is mandatory. Students must read the assigned reading for prior to each class and be ready to discuss the readings by coming into class with questions related to the reading material due for that day. If you must miss a class, please contact me.

Attendance of every class is especially. 20% of your grade will be based on class participation. All students are expected to come into each class with questions related to the assigned readings for that class. The questions can include things you did not understand, things you disagreed with, or questions the readings prompted in your mind. I will periodically ask students to read out their questions in class and will ask other students to respond to them.

Grading of class participation:

- Students who attend every class but 1 will get an A in class participation.
- Students who miss 2 or 3 classes will get a B in class participation.
- Students who miss 4 or 5 classes will get a C in class participation.
- Students who miss 6 or 7 classes will receive a D for class participation.
- Students who miss more than 7 classes will receive an F for class participation.

B. Students will take three exams in order to demonstrate their understanding of the material covered in the readings and class discussions. The exams will be given Feb. 25, April 5, May 12.
Grading of Quizzes and Exams:
Students will receive an A for the exam if they show a strong understanding of the material and are able to ask useful and critical questions about the readings. Students will receive a B for the exam if they show a competent understanding of the material and can ask interesting questions about the readings. Students will receive a C for the exam if they are having real difficulty understanding or articulating their understanding of the material. Students will receive a D for the exam if they show a very poor grasp of the material. Students will receive F for the exam if the assignment is not done or totally wrong.

C. Students will write two essays of 6-7 pages each on aspects of the readings and cultural formations covered in class. This will take the form of a response to questions about the work of a specific thinker, literary figure, or musician discussed in class. Deadline for handing in the first paper is March 8; deadline for handing in the second paper is May 5.

D. Students will receive four worksheets, consisting of a series of questions related to a specific reading we will be doing for a class. This will be a homework assignment and must be handed in on the day that we discuss the specific reading in class.

E. All students will meet with me for 10-15 minutes in my office within the first month of the semester to discuss the progress you are making in the course and any thoughts you have about it.

If you miss a quiz or are late in handing in your paper, you must contact me in order to arrange for a make-up. Papers handed in late will have one-half of a grade point deducted for each class the paper is handed in beyond the deadline.

Try not to arrive late for class or leave the class in the middle of instruction or discussion, as this is disruptive to other students. Make sure that all cell phones are turned off during class time.

IX. Required Instructional Materials:
1) Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants, by David Bacon
2) Crossing into America: The New Literature of Immigration, edited by Louis Mendoza and S. Shankar
3) Immigrant Voices, edited by Achy Obejas and Megan Bayles
4) Select Essays included on D2L.

X. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
A. Tests: The three tests will each count for 10% each of the final grade (total 30%)
B. Response Essays: Each of the 6-7 page essays will count for 20% of the final grade (total 40%)
C. Class Participation will count for 20% of the final grade.
D. Worksheets will count for 8% of the final grade (2% each)
E. Consultative meeting during my office hours will count for 2% of the final grade
Grade distribution is as follows:

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 – 69
F = 0 - 59

X. Other Course Information:

A. Disabilities
If you have a documented learning, psychological, or physical disability you may be entitled to reasonable academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, contact the Access and Disability Resource Center at the Des Plaines or Skokie campus. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The College will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

B. Discrimination
The Oakton Community College Catalog states:
Oakton Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status in admission to and participation in its educational programs, activities and services, or employment practices. The College does not tolerate sexual harassment or sexual assault by or of its students or employees. In keeping with this policy of tolerance and non-discrimination, in this class all of us (myself included) should strive to listen and give careful consideration to all ideas expressed in class, especially those that are different from our own, without attacking or demeaning the people who have those views. We should also strive to avoid using insulting terms or telling offensive jokes when talking to or about individuals or groups.

C. Important Dates:

February 14: Last day to drop course and have course removed from your record.
March 27: Last day to withdraw with a W from the course.

D. Instructor information: Office and office hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00 am to 12 Noon; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 11:00 am and 1:00 to 2:00 pm, in Room 2702.

Email: phudis@oakton.edu, peterhudis@aol.com; cell phone is 312-399-8629.