

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

DVST 2003 Introduction to Diversity Studies

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): ENGL 1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces students to the study of diversity using a multidisciplinary approach. Concepts and theories from anthropology, comparative literature, history, psychology, and sociology will be used to develop and understand the social diversity of contemporary United States. Elements of diversity covered in the course include race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, ability, age, class, language, legal status, xenophobia, immigration, nationalism, and intersectionality.

B. Additional Information

This course is required in the Minor Degree in Diversity Studies.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss diverse identities, cultures, beliefs, and behaviors in the social world.
2. Apply the dimensions of cultural identity to explain the way it shapes the perception of self and others.
3. Analyze and apply major perspectives, theories, and concepts in history, humanities, and social science.
4. Evaluate multiple aspects of diversity and their implications pertaining to personal and professional relationships, the workplace and contemporary society.
5. Create presentations using empirical research that analyzes issues related to diversity.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze social and cultural diversity through a multidisciplinary approach. Students will assess the impact of social and cultural diversity on individuals, organizations, and society.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how individuals, organizations, and society is impacted by social and cultural diversity.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Unconscious bias
- B. Intersectionality of class, gender, race
- C. Xenophobia, immigration, refugees
- D. Sexual Orientation
- E. Ability
- F. Ageism
- G. Cultural Competency
- H. Local elements of social diversity