

Montgomery County Community College
 HIS 215
 American Immigration
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the immigrant experience in the United States in a loose chronological manner by focusing on diversity issues, analyzing legislation and highlighting anti-immigrant social movements. The students will research the personal aspect of immigration by studying the lives of immigrants in autobiographical accounts and historical fiction. Class discussions will focus on discovering to what extent America is a society of immigrants.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Discuss the history of immigration to the United States.	Document Analyses Articles Website Reviews Research Papers Class Discussions Presentations	Exams Quizzes
2. Outline the major developments in, and concepts about, U.S. immigration.	Class Discussions Articles	Exams
3. Analyze the political, economic, social, religious/philosophical and cultural forces which shaped these developments and concepts.	Class Discussions Article Reviews	Exams
4. Interpret and analyze History through primary sources.	Document Analyses Class Discussions	Oral Presentation and Research Paper

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
5. Synthesize historical knowledge in written and oral form.	Research Papers Class Discussions Presentations Document Analyses Articles	Oral presentation and Research Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. The Dynamics of Emigration from the Countries of Origin
Where did the immigrants come from and why? The reasons for emigration, the "push" factors, will be examined. We will look at wars, famines, political oppression, religious persecution, economic disasters, and racism.
2. The Mode of Travel
How did the emigrants get to the ports of departure, and from there how did they travel across the ocean? How did they finance these trips? What were the dangers?
3. First Experiences in the New Land
What did they find upon arrival? How were immigrants received? Where and how did they live at first? Is racism in America a product of immigration?
4. The Process of Acculturation
How did the immigrants cope with problems like learning a new language, a new way of dressing and acting, a new way of thinking about themselves and society? In what ways did they cling to the culture they brought with them? How did the second and third generations differ from the original immigrants?
5. The Ethnic Heritage and Its Place in America Today
How much of the "American" Culture is a blend of distinct ethnic items? Is the "Ethnic Factor" in America being exploited in consumer advertising? In Political campaigning? Has America ever really been a "melting pot"?

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Text(s) will be selected, as needed, by the History Faculty.

Present selected text:

Gjerde, Jon. *Major Problems in Immigration and Ethnic History.*

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Carol-Rae Sodano, D. Creciun	Date: 7/1995
Reviewed by: Professor Rhoda McFadden	Date: 9/1998
Revised by: Elsa Rapp	Date: 3/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009

Revised by: Theresa Napson-Williams	Date: 5/24/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 5/28/2013

Reviewed by: Theresa Napson-Williams	Date: 5/30/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/4/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.