



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### 1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	European Studies Faculty
1.3 Department	International Relations and American Studies
1.4 Field of study	American Studies, Cultural Studies
1.5 Study level	BA
1.6 Programme of study/Qualification	American Studies

### 2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	<b>Ethnic Communities in the United States</b>						
2.2 Course holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.3 Seminar holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment <sup>1</sup>	E	2.7 Type of module <sup>2</sup>	OB

### 3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 No. of hours per week	4	3.1 of which for course	2	3.3 of which for seminar	2
3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum	56	3.5 of which for course	28	3.6 of which for seminar	28
Time distribution: 14 weeks					200
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					20
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					13
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					20
Tutoring					11
Examinations					11
Other activities: .....					20
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	33				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	75				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	6				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	• --
4.2 of competencies	• --

<sup>1</sup> E - exam, ME - multi-term examinations, C - collocutional examination/assessment test

<sup>2</sup> OB - core module, OP - elective module, F - extracurricular module

## 5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 For the development of the course	• --
5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory	• --

## 6. Specific skills acquired

<b>Professional skills</b>	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the key notions of <b>ethnic studies</b> and <b>community studies</b>, as well as the major ideas of the interdisciplinary characteristics of these type of studies (history, demography, political science, legal studies, sociology, cultural anthropology, cultural studies)</li> <li>• properly use the basic <b>social-historical data, theories</b> and <b>methodologies</b>, relevant for analysing the different types of social, cultural and political facts that characterize the <b>ethnic communities</b>, generally, and in particular, as <b>case studies</b> of American ethnic communities</li> <li>• understand concepts, theories, and basic models, suitable for analysing different types of <b>policies, laws</b> and <b>discourses</b> about <b>population, immigration, community, race, ethnicity, social group</b> and <b>interethnic/interacial relations</b> in American society, in contemporary, historical, and critical perspectives</li> <li>• properly describe and present the <b>formation</b>, the <b>evolution</b> and the <b>organizing principles</b> of American ethnic-racial groups and communities, as well as some of their typical <b>experiences, institutions</b> and <b>expressions</b></li> <li>• interpret the particularities of the various contexts where the information about the <b>ethnic-racial identity and representation</b> (media, popular culture, laws, political debates, stereotypes) is produced</li> <li>• use the basic notions of explaining the factors which favor or limit the <b>intercultural, interethnic and interracial communication</b> in the American society</li> <li>• properly use the basic knowledge for explaining some <b>notions which characterize the ethnic communities in the US</b> (such as minority, cultural identity, assimilation, segregation) and the specificity of their <b>evolution</b> and of <b>the inter-community relations</b>, as well as the <b>policies</b> regarding the <b>rights of these communities</b> and the <b>administration</b> of these inter-community and <b>interethnic relations</b> (such as the civil rights movement, the immigration policies, the affirmative action or multiculturalism)</li> </ul>
<b>Interdisciplinary skills</b>	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to learn from different disciplinary approaches</li> <li>▪ to enhance their ability to read analytically and critically</li> <li>▪ to identify and discuss issues in their proper historical-political and social-cultural contexts</li> <li>▪ to communicate and correlate information and knowledge from different domains</li> <li>▪ to debate issues regarding critical or controversial aspects of contemporary society</li> </ul>

## 7. Course objectives (based on list of acquired skills)

7.1 General objective	This course aims at <b>introducing, describing</b> and <b>debating</b> the topic of ethnic communities and ethnic experiences in the United States, from historical and contemporary perspectives. Students following this course should be able to <b>present</b> the evolution, the importance and the challenges of ethnic communities in America, in their major aspects, and to <b>understand</b> and <b>discuss</b> some of their social, political and cultural issues as <b>case studies</b> .
7.2 Specific objectives	The course will introduce in their <i>historical-political</i> and <i>socio-cultural</i> contexts: (1) <b>theoretical concepts</b> related to the subject of ethnic communities in America (2) <b>major characteristics</b> and <b>issues</b> of the ethnic communities in America, as well as (3) <b>expressions</b> and <b>problematizations</b> of ethnic experiences in America.

## 8. Contents

8.1 Lecture	Teaching methods	Observations
1. <b>Organizational meeting.</b> Introduction to the study of American Ethnic Groups	Comprehensive lecture, PowerPoint presentations, illustrations, contextualizations, debates, specific analyses, critical thinking, reviews  Short video screenings and discussions	Materials used in the educational process:  Computer, Projector, PowerPoint presentation (slides), visual illustrations (pictures, maps, charts, videos), handouts of bibliography excerpts.
2. <b>Overview of the U.S. population.</b> The formation of Ethnic Communities in America. Historical contexts		
3. <b>Politics of race and ethnicity</b> in America		
4. <b>A cultural analysis of immigration to America.</b> Aspects of the evolution of ethnic communities and interethnic relations		
5. <b>Special course: Racism.</b> The origins of slavery. Comparing minority groups. The impact of racism in the 20th century		
6. <b>Native Americans. Case studies:</b> living in reservations, naming athletic mascots		
7. <b>European Americans. Case studies:</b> religion and ethnicity, white minority		
8. <b>African Americans. Case studies:</b> segregation and racism, African American political movements		
9. <b>Asian Americans. Case studies:</b> Asian American diversity, model minority issues		
10. <b>Hispanic Americans. Case studies:</b> ethnic enclaves, new immigration issues		
11. <b>American ethnic experiences 1. Case studies:</b> the illegal immigration, ethnic festivals		
12. <b>American ethnic experiences 2. Case studies:</b> forms and issues of multiculturalism in America		
13. <b>Review: Ethnic Communities in America.</b> cultural backgrounds, social characteristics, political Issues		
14. <b>Conclusive course:</b> Characteristics and issues of multicultural America		
<b>Bibliography:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aguirre, Adalberto Jr., Jonathan H. Turner - <i>American Ethnicity: The Dynamics and Consequences of Discrimination</i>, McGraw-Hill, 2007</li> <li>• Barkan, Elliott R. ed. - <i>A Nation of Peoples. A Sourcebook on America's Multicultural Heritage</i>, Greenwood, 1999</li> <li>• Healey, Joseph F. - <i>Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class. The Sociology of Group Conflict and</i></li> </ul>		

**Change**, Pine Forge Press, 2003

- Jackson, Carl. E., Emory. J. Tolbert, eds. - **Race and Culture in America. Readings in Racial and Ethnic Relations**, Burgess International Group, 3rd edition, 1989
- Schaefer, Richard - **Racial and Ethnic Groups**, DePaul University Press, 2009

8.2 Seminar / Laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Organizational meeting		
2. The formation of Ethnic Communities in America		
3. Politics of race and ethnicity		
4. Aspects of the evolution of ethnic communities in America		
5. <i>Case study</i> : the Transatlantic slave trade		
6. <i>Case study</i> : Indian reservations		
7. <i>Case study</i> : White minority groups: Irish and Italian in America		
8. <i>Case study</i> : African American political movements		
9. <i>Case study</i> : Asian American diversity		
10. <i>Case study</i> : Chinatown in America		
11. <i>Case study</i> : Illegal immigration in America		
12. <i>Case study</i> : Cultural expressions of ethnic diversity in America		
13. Review, late presentations		
14. Preparing exam		

**Bibliography:**

- Healey, Joseph F. – **Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class. The Sociology of Group Conflict and Change**, Pine Forge Press, 2003
- Schaefer, Richard – **Racial and Ethnic Groups**, DePaul University Press, 2009
- **GALE Encyclopedia of Multicultural America**. 3 vols., Gale, 2000

**Optional bibliography:**

- Gallagher, Charles – **Rethinking the Color Line. Readings in Race and Ethnicity**, McGraw-Hill, 1998
- Jacoby, Tamar ed. – **Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What It Means to be American**, Basic Books, 2004
- Jaret, Charles - **Contemporary Racial and Ethnic Relations**, Prentice Hall, 1997
- McLemore, S. Dale et al. – **Racial and Ethnic Relations in America**, Allyn and Bacon, 1994
- Miyares, Ines, Christopher Airriess – **Contemporary Ethnic Geographies in America**, Rowman & Littlefield, 2007
- Rose, Peter I. – **They and We. Racial and Ethnic Relations in the United States**, McGraw-Hill, 1990
- Vera, Hernán, Joe R. Feagin – **Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations**, Springer, 2008
- Williams, Mary E. ed. – **Race Relations. Opposing Viewpoints**, Greenhaven Press, 2000

**9. The correspondence between the content of the course and the expectations of the academic community, professional associations and representative employers in the field:**

After completing this course, students will have a **good knowledge** of American ethnic communities and interethnic relations; will **demonstrate awareness** and **comprehension** for cultural diversity and will be able to **understand and use concepts** highlighted along the entire course (such as community, race and ethnicity, immigration, minority, assimilation, discrimination, segregation, racism, politics of ethnicity, multiculturalism, ethnic stereotypes, expressions of ethnic identity etc. )

These will **help** them in **understanding** and **approaching** an increasingly diverse society, racially and ethnically speaking (in the contexts of globalization, workforce displacement, and multiplication of international contacts) that will facilitate them addressing a series of issues related to living and working in pluriethnic communities and international environments.

The topic of ethnic communities should be *profoundly understood and appropriately treated* as an issue they will confront to, in their social participation and future professional lives, within an increasing multiethnic and multiracial society and in the global context.

### 10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4.1 Lecture	(1) using specific informations, notions and analyses introduced and utilized throughout the course	- testing the knowledge taught/acquired - assessing the capacity to use information, interpret, and analyse	60%
10.4.2 Seminar	(2) understanding and presenting/reviewing a bibliography text (3) individual research project	- joining the seminar discussions, presenting seminar article review - presenting and discussing individual research project	40%
10.5 Minimum standard of performance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- using specific informations, nations and analyses introduced and utilized throughout the course</li> <li>- presenting and discussing individual research project</li> </ul>			

Date  
signature

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Course holder signature

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Seminar holder

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Date of departmental approval

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Head of department signature

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