NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
HIS 261 – TOPICS IN CULTURAL ETHNICITY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Cultural experiences of various ethnic groups in the United States, e.g. the Irish, Italians, Jews, Germans, etc. Lecture 3 hours per week. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Course Purpose

History 261 allows students to gain a historical understanding of the American experience of a particular racial/ethnic community within the United States. Students will study the historical development of the racial/ethnic community's culture, and examine the social, economic, and political institutions giving shape to that community's development. Students will learn how the racial/ethnic community contributes to the racial and ethnic pluralism of the larger American culture and society of which they are apart.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Objectives

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

- ➢ Explain the establishment of the racial/ethnic community within the United States
- ➢ Define race/ethnicity as categories of historical analysis
- ➢ Discuss the experiences of the racial/ethnic community as framed by relevant watershed moments in American History (as identified in the relevant "Major Topics" for HIS 121 and HIS 122)
- ➢ Identify key changes in the construction of racial/ethnic self-representation and the factors influencing those changes
- ➢ Discuss the influence of class, gender, and sexuality within the racial/ethnic community
- ➢ Establish a chronology of major historical events shaping the racial/ethnic American experience
- ➢ Analyze complex historical sources and materials and reach conclusions based upon interpretations of those materials

Major Topics to be Included

- Assimilation, acculturation, adjustment, and nationalism in American Society
- Immigration, Migration, and Movement
- Creation of racial/ethnic space (including ethnic enclaves)
- Transnational ties and Diaspora
- Civil Rights and Inclusion
- Miscegenation and Xenophobia
- Ethnicity and American Domestic and Foreign Policy