

Lehman College LEH 352 Spring 2020– *Studies in Literature: Using Multimedia to Visualize American History and Culture*

Prof. Sheila Gersh [sheila.gersh@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:sheila.gersh@lehman.cuny.edu) Blackboard -- <http://www.cuny.edu>

For your Lehman e-mail: <http://mail.lehman.edu>

Office Hours: online.. I will also meet you on SKYPE/WhatsApp if you need any help. Contact me about this.

\*\* Create an account on Blackboard (<http://www.cuny.edu>), and make sure you Lehman email is working. If it is not working, contact me immediately (not later than 1/29).

### Description

Culture, cultural diversity, and multiculturalism constitute some of the most significant historic and social issues in America today. Oriented around the core concept of culture and cultural groups, the course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of culture and cultural diversity and their historic moments, and develop an awareness and appreciation for the full range of diversity in the American (U.S.) culture and history. Through the use of information technology and digital collections to learn about American Culture and its historic roots, students will study of culture, historic topics about America, general ideas about American culture, and specific aspects of American culture in order to gain a deeper understanding about America. Student investigations will produce educational and informational websites and digital stories about America from which others can learn.

### Course Objectives

**Upon successful completion of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:**

1. Develop an understanding and appreciation about American Culture and its **historic** events.
2. Identify specific aspects and historic events related to American Culture.
3. Perform authentic scholarly investigations (research) using **primary resources** about American Culture and historic events Review procedures for creating a good research paper found at <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html>  
<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Research-Paper>
4. Create an information webpage about one aspect about American culture.
5. Use Internet resources in an appropriate and effective manner.
6. Enhance content knowledge about a topic through explorations of content-rich Internet resources and use of multimedia resources.
7. Students will develop their written communication skills through a variety of assignments starting with research, outline preparation and preparing drafts before completing the writing assignment.

### Technology/Multimedia Objectives

**Students will:**

1. Develop search strategies for locating Internet resources related to culture and American culture.
2. Explore applications of technology/multimedia as a tool for research, communications, problem solving and publishing
3. Learn to use multimedia (PowerPoint, Movie Maker (or Photo Story)
4. Create a Web site using GOOGLE SITES (<http://sites.google.com>) .
5. Plan and deliver a digital story that integrates a variety of electronic learning tools, multiple media, and American Culture
6. Plan and participate in activities that encourage lifelong learning and literacy development and promote equitable, ethical, and legal use of computer/technology resources

**Required readings:** Online resources and textbook

**Online Discussion--readings are grouped by topic. First read the information about the topic and**

readings. You will also have access to resources related to the Course Topics--web links (click underlined topic) provided to help in developing your understanding and to access required course materials After you have read the assignments for the topic, go to the Blackboard site to post your responses to the discussion topic posted on the Discussion Board. Check into the online course (Blackboard) 3 times a week to see new announcements, check messages and view Discussion Board postings and check your Lehman email daily.

**Journal Assignment**—You will read the book (attached) about American culture and historic material provided throughout the course. Reading the required textbook and resources found in “External Links”. Prepare a two paragraph summary and reflection (1 for summary 1 for your thoughts) for **each chapter** in the book and post it in “**Journal**” in Blackboard. Complete 2 per week and post to the ‘**Journal**’ area of Blackboard.

### **Course Expectations:**

1. You will read required readings about American culture and its history and participate in online discussions using Blackboard’s “Discussion Board” and “Journal”.
2. You will plan, develop and complete activities based on the assignments of the week.
3. You will explore web-based resources and tools to create two web pages—one about yourself and one about an one aspect of American Culture
4. You will prepare a one- 10-page research paper which will include a 2-page summary of an interview with a person who lived during one U.S. historic era and its connection to American Culture and the topic of your research paper. You will prepare a digital story based on the interview..

**Required Course Texts: American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States [Paperback]** Gary Althen and Janet Bennett (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) (received as an email and also in Blackboard)

**Other suggested readings:** On Paradise Drive [Paperback], David Brooks; American Mania [Paperback] Peter C. Whybrow, M.D.

**Course supplies:** -- readings and software as described in assignments.

### **Course Policies**

1. **Using any other persons’ work without acknowledgement or proper citation is plagiarism and is not permitted (*Plagiarize: 1. To use and pass off as one’s own (the ideas or writing of another. 2. To appropriate for use as one’s own passages or ideas from another. )*) The assignment and/or final grade will be an F. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT COPY TEXT FROM THE INTERNET OR ANY OTHER SOURCE. I WILL DO A PLAGIARISM CHECK REGULARLY.)** Blackboard has a Plagiarism check called “Safe Assign”. **Inserting quotations around more than two sentences in the entire paper will not be accepted. You will need to use “your words” when writing your papers.**
2. You are expected to be prepared to participate in all online discussions for assigned topics and to contribute to discussions. You can also communicate with me via email.
3. You may need to download some software for the projects. (EX. Photo Story 3.0) You will also need to get a g-mail account at <http://mail.google.com> Please do this by the first week of class.
4. Hand in assignments as you complete them to meet the due dates, not all at the end of the semester. All assignments will be submitted to the “Assignments” area in Blackboard, the Discussion Board or in your Journal in Blackboard. All assignments will go through a Plagiarism check which is part of Blackboard.
5. Enjoy the course!

## **Journal (Reading Summaries)**

Each week you will be required to read the material and write a 1-2 paragraph summary for two chapters in the textbook. These summaries relate to your understanding of "American Culture". In Blackboard you will click Journal on the left frame to post your blog. Once you are at the Journal click "New Entry" to begin posting. For future chapters, just click "Edit Post" to add on to the posts. The first paragraph will be a short summary of the book; The second paragraph will be YOUR reaction.

## **Assessment – (ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO EARN A GRADE IN COURSE)**

### **JOURNAL Entries of reading: 10%**

**Class Activities = 20%** (Online Class Discussions and Participation, Discussion Board Assignments)

**American Culture a Research Paper – Research paper 20 %; Outline 10% Digital Story – 10 %**

**American Culture /History on a selected topics -Paper – 15%**

**American Culture website 10%**

**Other short assignments = 5%**

**Late assignments will reduce grade for assignment. In order to get a final grade ALL assignments MUST be submitted.**

**Weekly TOPICS: To be posted on Blackboard.**

**MAJOR RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT:** All other assignments are listed on Blackboard.

You will be reading articles about culture and history. This assignment will have you researching for academic resources related to a one of the decades listed below. **Research at least 3 aspects** of American culture during the decade you select. In addition as a 4<sup>th</sup> part of the paper, **Include at least one group who immigrated during the decade** and describe why they came to the US and what they brought to the American culture.

**Choose one of the following topics and research at least three areas include**

American Culture and Politics

Immigration in American Society

Arts in American Culture

Minority Groups in American Politics

Changing Male and Female Roles in American Society

## **PART I**

You will find a person who can discuss the topic you are researching. Once you decide on the person you are going to interview, research the topic using academic books, journals, and educational Internet resources. Write a **2- page outline** on the particular decade including a **bibliography** of at least 4-6 *different* resources. Look at "Course Information" to find resources about how to prepare an outline. Refer to this site - <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html#step4> -- to know which format to use. At the end of the outline, **write 20 questions** you will use when you interview the person. **DO NOT COPY FROM THE INTERNET OR ANY OTHER RESOURCE. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.** Post your outline to the Assignment area. Paper is due Use resources provided to prepare the outline.

## **PART II**

Write an 8-10 page research paper about the topic using **YOUR OWN WORDS**. Review the materials made available to learn how to prepare a research

After you interview the person, include a **2-page narrative summary** of the result of your interview. **Do not write this in question and answer format**; instead write a summary of the interview. (Do not use “I” in the summary.) Take a picture of the person if he/she permits it. The interview summary should be the last part of the research paper. Include the bibliography at the end of the research paper (after the interview summary).

### **PART III**

Using the paper’s interview narrative summary that you wrote for the interview, you will search the Internet to find pictures that represent every one or two sentences. (You may further edit your summary if you feel that more or less information is needed for a good digital story). Each picture will be presented on a PowerPoint slide (one picture per slide). Instructions for learning to use PowerPoint can be found at <http://culturequest.us/powerpoint.pdf>

Once you have created the PowerPoint presentation using images (pictures) only...remember, no text...you will then narrate your presentation....that is, for each picture (slide), you will narrate the few sentences that go along with that image (picture) and are part of your interview summary. You will need a microphone to narrate your story and speakers to hear it. When you narrate, read from your paper that you submitted. **DO NOT SAY THINGS LIKE** "...HERE IS A PICTURE OF....." OR "THIS PICTURE IS....." (You can purchase a microphone at STAPLES for about \$8. (Many computers have built-in microphones and, of course, speakers.) If you are using PowerPoint 2010, click “insert” + audio to complete the narration (click “record audio” to get to the “narration” box and click the red button to start recording.. If you prefer, you can use MovieMaker, PhotoStory 2.0 or iMovie in place of PowerPoint.

Additional course assignments will be posted in Blackboard throughout the course under “Assignments” and “Discussion Board”.