Appalachian Studies

Maddy Dawson
Room 47
Fall 2024

Grade Level: 9-12
Instructor: Maddy Dawson
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Remind Code:

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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the Appalachian region with a particular focus on Cocke County, Tennessee. Students will explore the region's rich cultural heritage, historical development, and socio-economic issues. Through lectures, discussions, research projects, and hands-on activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the Appalachian way of life and its significance in American history.

Course Objectives:

1. **Understand the History and Geography of the Appalachian Region:**
   - Learn about the historical development of the Appalachian region.
   - Study the geographical features and how they influence life in Appalachia.
2. **Explore Appalachian Culture:**
   - Examine traditional music, arts, and crafts of the region.
   - Discuss cultural practices, folklore, and oral traditions.
3. **Focus on Cocke County, Tennessee:**
   - Investigate the history, economy, and culture of Cocke County.
   - Analyze local issues and how they reflect broader regional trends.
4. **Develop Research and Presentation Skills:**
   - Conduct individual and group research projects.
   - Present findings effectively through oral presentations and written reports.
5. **Engage in Group Activities:**
   - Collaborate on worksheets, discussions, and interactive projects.

Required Materials:

- Notebook and writing materials
- Access to Chromebooks or laptops

Course Schedule:

Introduction to Appalachia

- **Topics:** Geography, history, and demographics of the Appalachian region.
- **Activities:** Map exercises, group discussions on regional stereotypes and realities.
- **Assessment:** Open-note quiz on Appalachian geography and history.

Historical Context

- **Topics:** Settlement history, industrialization, and economic changes.
- **Activities:** Timeline creation of key historical events; research assignment on historical figures.
- **Assessment:** Research project on the impact of industrialization in Appalachia.

Appalachian Culture

- **Topics:** Music, arts, and crafts. Influence of European, Native, and African cultures.
- **Activities:** Group presentations on traditional Appalachian music and arts; guest speaker or virtual tour of local crafts.
- **Assessment:** Group presentation on Appalachian cultural practices.

Focus on Cocke County

- **Topics:** History, local economy, and current issues in Cocke County.
- **Activities:** Research local history; field trip or virtual tour of Cocke County.
- **Assessment:** Written report on Cocke County's historical and current context.

Local Issues and Community Life

- **Topics:** Social and economic challenges, community resilience, and local activism.
- **Activities:** Case studies of local initiatives; group discussions on local vs. regional issues.
- **Assessment:** Group project on a local issue in Cocke County and potential solutions.

Research Skills Workshop

- **Topics:** Conducting research, citing sources, and presenting findings.
- **Activities:** Research methodology workshop; peer review of research drafts.
- **Assessment:** Draft of individual research project.

Project Work

- **Topics:** Independent research projects on selected topics related to Appalachian Studies.
- **Activities:** Work time for research projects; instructor feedback sessions.
- **Assessment:** Final research project and presentation.

Presentations and Reviews

- **Topics:** Presentation skills, review of course content.
- **Activities:** Student presentations of research projects; review sessions for final assessment.
- **Assessment:** Evaluation of presentations and participation in review sessions.

Final Assessment and Reflection

- **Topics:** Course review and reflection on learning.
- **Activities:** Open-note final test; reflective essays on course experiences.
- **Assessment:** Final test and reflective essay.

Assessment Methods:

- **Open-Note Tests:** Covering key topics and readings.
- **Research Projects:** Individual and group projects on various aspects of Appalachian culture and Cocke County.
- **Presentations:** Group and individual presentations on research findings.
- **Participation:** Engagement in class discussions and activities.

Grading Policy:

- **Open-Note Tests:** 30%
- **Research Projects:** 30%
- **Presentations:** 20%
- **Participation and Group Activities:** 20%

Classroom Policies:

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is essential for participation in discussions and group activities.
- **Late Work:** Assignments must be submitted on time. Late work will be penalized unless prior arrangements are made.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All work must be original and properly cited.

Plagiarism Policy:

According to the Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as "presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased." This includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work

- Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source

- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source

- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.

Consequences of plagiarism include:

- Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents are to be involved in making the decision.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Students may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or QuillBot) for brainstorming, drafting assistance, grammar checks, and idea development. **However, all submitted work must reflect the student's own understanding, voice, and critical thinking.**

Guidelines for AI Use:

- Generating ideas, outlines, and topic suggestions

- Grammar and spelling assistance

- Style and clarity suggestions

- Research guidance (must verify sources)

🚫 **Not Allowed:**

- Submitting AI-generated essays, analyses, or responses as original work

- Using AI to bypass reading assignments or critical thinking tasks

- Copying AI-generated content without revision or personal input

Academic Integrity:

Any work that relies excessively on AI without meaningful student engagement may be considered plagiarism. If unsure, students should consult the instructor before using AI.

AI should be a tool for learning, not a substitute for effort. Use it responsibly to enhance —not replace—your writing skills.

Religion in the Classroom:

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;

2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;1

3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and1

4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.