

**Common Course Outline**  
**ARSC 121**  
**American Pluralism**  
**3 Credits**  
**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**ARSC 121 – 3 credits – American Pluralism** examines multiculturalism in the United States and focuses on contemporary issues of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic class, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation from an interdisciplinary perspective. It provides students with a critical awareness of the causes and effects of structured inequities and prejudicial exclusion in and by the United States, as well as processes and policies leading to a more equitable society.

**3 credits**

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 and MATH 081

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. define basic diversity terms;
2. analyze the origins of structured inequalities and prejudicial attitudes and actions with regards to race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation in the lives of citizens of the United States;
3. examine the impact of online resources and other research technologies on various populations;
4. explain perspectives, other than one's own, with regard to the meaning of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation in the United States;
5. explain the role that religion, race, class, gender, and ethnicity play in influencing historical issues and events;
6. contrast one's own culture in terms of art, literature, science, technology, and ethics with that of another culture;
7. explain how selected course material has contributed to the formation and evolution of one's own worldview;
8. identify ethical policies and actions that would lead to a more equitable society;
9. compare the historical experiences of Americans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation to the lives of the citizens of the United States;
10. assess the validity of one's own perception of unethical, structured inequalities and prejudicial attitudes regarding race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, religious affiliation and sexual orientation in the lives of citizens of this country, and

11. find, evaluate, use and cite informational resources related to a course-specific topic (including secondary sources, interpretive essays, electronic sources, and primary sources such as biographies, diaries, letters, newspapers, and statistical reports).

### **Major Topics**

- I. Self-identity in a pluralistic society
- II. Pre-Revolutionary War convergence of Native American, European and African cultures on the North American continent
- III. History of immigration and assimilation
- IV. Prejudicial attitudes, structured inequalities, social construction, internalized oppression
- V. Contributions to expanding democracy
- VI. Policy issues and alternatives
- VII. Re-envisioning society's future

### **Course Requirements**

Individual course requirements will be determined by the instructor and will be described in the syllabus for each section. Minimally, each section will require:

- a midterm exam and a final exam;
- a minimum of two written assignments. Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives; at least one 6-page assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes. Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources;
- at least one oral project or presentation (i.e., service learning), and
- a minimum of one collaborative learning project.

Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity course.