

SYLLABUS
Appalachian Seminar
Humanities 204
Fall 2002
Robert Gipe, instructor

This course meets at the Southeast Community College Harlan campus from 6 pm to 8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. Appalachian Seminar is a course worth three semester hours of credit in the *social interaction category*. There are no pre-requisites for the course and no textbooks to be purchased.

My office hours are from 9am-11am and Tuesdays and Thursdays; 1:30pm - 3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays; and by appointment at other times. I am often at meetings that spill over into my office hours. *The best way to see me outside of class is to make an appointment.* My office is Room 119 in the Appalachian Center. There is a place to leave messages for me there. My office phone number is 606-589-2145 x 2047. My e-mail address is: robert.gipe@kctcs.edu. The Appalachian Center secretary, Theresa Osborne, will also get a message to me. Her phone number is 589-2145 x 2119. Her office is also in Appalachian Center Room 119.

Course description

This is SECC's official course description for Humanities 204: "Students examine in detail the sociological, religious, and governmental issues within the Appalachian community. Some emphasis is placed on discussing issues related to ethnic subcultures. Topics vary from semester to semester."

My objectives in teaching the course

1. Give students an opportunity to explore how citizen organizations have affected life in Appalachian coalfield communities
2. Work with students as they carry out their work to make sure that it:
 - a. has some element of pleasure in it for the student;
 - b. engages the world beyond the classroom;
 - c. teaches them skills needed to succeed in college;
 - d. involves the asking of good questions and the framing of rational response to those questions;
 - e. where possible, helps students complete and/or deepen their studies in other classes;
 - f. helps students clarify their relation to the region; and
 - g. helps students make career decisions.

Grading policy and the work of the course

This semester we will work on a collaborative project with twelve other colleges in Appalachia and one other class at Southeast Community College. In November, members of our class will make a fifteen minute presentation to the staff of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington DC.

Students earn their grade in this course on the basis of a points system. 900 or more accumulated points earns a student an A. 800-899 points earn a B, 700-799 a C, and 600-699 a D. Students earning fewer than 600 points fail the course. Students cannot pass the course if they fail to 1) take the reading quiz; 2) complete a work contract signed by the instructor; 3) complete the work described in the contract; and 4) complete a two page written evaluation of the semester's work. Students earn points in the following ways:

Opportunities for points

Assignment sheets will be appended to the syllabus describing in more detail the requirements and purpose of the specific assignments.

- **Reading Quiz (100 points)** Over the course of the semester students will receive a series of short readings and other assignments. Students will take a quiz to demonstrate their comprehension of what has been presented.
- **Preparation of a contract between teacher and student (200 points)** Students will write a contract describing the work they plan to do for the semester. Students will create a work plan that incorporates work on at least one of the following projects. Students may participate in more than one of the projects. All work must be a part of one of the four projects. Students may renegotiate a **completed** contract to change the type (but not the amount) of work they are doing.
 - **Community-based research work** Students may participate in community based survey work going on in the Clover Fork area with the families of children in the GEAR UP program.
 - **Designing a non-profit organization** Students may participate in the creation of a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
 - **Creation of a portrait based on interviews and photographs** Students participating in this project will complete extended interviews with a single Harlan County resident; transcribe their interviews; create a portfolio of portrait photography of the person they interview; edit their interviews and photographs together with the histories and photographs of the other students in the class into a presentation in Washington in November and an exhibit that will be on display in the Appalachian Center gallery in Cumberland. Students participating in this project will be collaborating with students in the Monday night Survey of Appalachian Studies class.
 - **Participate in creating the Washington presentation**
- **Work described in the contract (600 points)** Students will do the work they describe in their contract. That work will be evaluated by the instructor based on criteria established in the contract.
- **A two-page written evaluation of the semester (100 points)**

Student-instructor conferences

This class will include time for students to have one on one discussion with the instructor. You are responsible for two one on one conferences with the instructor. If you miss class on conference day, you are responsible for scheduling a conference with the instructor outside of

class. These conferences are very important. *Missing a student-teacher conference without making it up can earn a student a negative 150 points for each missed conference.*

Deadlines

Missing a deadline without a good excuse (good as defined by the instructor) can cost a student up to 150 points.

Plagiarism and cheating

In a class like this one, it is inevitable that students will use the words and ideas of others. The use of the words and ideas of others is encouraged. However, if a student uses the words and ideas of any person other than themselves in any of their work and doesn't give credit to the source of those words and ideas, that student is plagiarizing. *Plagiarism and other cheating (such as borrowing answers from another on the final exam) will be met with a range of penalties--from a 100 point subtraction from the student's final point tally to a failing grade for the course.* Penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the instructor.

Other issues

Attendance policy Attendance is not mandatory but is highly recommended. **Late Work Policy** Late work may have points taken off before grading, at the discretion of the instructor. **Written Work Policy** Written work should be typed and may be turned in on a floppy disk, if the floppy disk is accompanied by a hard (paper) copy. **Make up Work** Students may make up work if they have an excused absence and do so in a timely fashion. Students who miss class should check with the instructor as soon as possible after the class, find out what they missed, and make arrangements with the instructor to make up any work missed. **Withdrawal Policy** Students may withdraw at any time before the final exam and receive a "W" if they discuss their withdrawal with the instructor before withdrawing. **General education competencies addressed by the course** This course is designed to allow students to: 1) demonstrate the ability to analyze situations and make educated decisions using problem solving skills; 2) communicate effectively using standard written English; 3) communicate in a clear oral and non-verbal fashion and employ active listening skills; 4) demonstrate an awareness of self as an individual, as a member of a multicultural society, and/or as a member of the world community; 5) recognize the impact of decisive ideas and events in human heritage; 6) develop and perform basic search strategies and access information in a variety of formats, print and non-print; 7) analyze, summarize and interpret a variety of reading materials; 8) think critically and make connections in learning across the disciplines; 9) elaborate upon knowledge to create new thoughts, processes and/or products; and 10) demonstrate an awareness of ethical considerations in making value choices. **Evaluation of the five general education across the curriculum competencies**

WRITING Students in this course will fulfill this competency by completing writing assignments in relation to group projects, responses to videos and other media, and individual projects. **READING** Students in this course will fulfill this competency by completing selected readings excerpted from books, journals, and other periodicals. **INTEGRATED LEARNING** Students in this course will fulfill this competency by assimilating information from various sources and in various media to complete group and individual projects. **CREATIVE THINKING** Students in this course will fulfill this competency by choosing their own emphases for study in the class and designing and executing their own class projects. **ETHICS/VALUES** Students in this course will fulfill this competency by reflecting on, among other things, images and stereotypes of the

Appalachian region and its people, the structure of families in the region, and the ethics and values associated with the work and culture of the region.

Revised Class Schedule

Date	Work Due	Notes
August 21		
August 28	<i>So Much To Offer; Freedom Schools; The Moses Factor; Worlds Apart Ch 1: Blackwell</i>	
September 4	<i>Back to Harlan Establishing A Non-Profit Organization By-laws of Big Creek People in Action, Inc.</i>	
September 11	<i>Worlds Apart Ch 4: Social Change & Social Policy;</i>	
September 14	Optional trip to Abingdon VA to discuss Washington project	
September 18	<i>1st draft of contract due</i>	
September 25	<i>Appalachia Ch 5: Crisis & Renewal 1930-2000</i>	
October 2	<i>Final draft of contract due</i>	
October 9		
October 16	<i>Report on work progress</i>	
October 23		
October 30		
November 6	<i>all work on Washington presentation due</i>	
November 13		
November 14-15	Washington Trip (Optional)	
November 20		
November 27	No Class (Night before Thanksgiving)	
December 4		
December 9-13	Final Exam Week All Work Due by Tuesday Dec 10	