

## EDU-905: Holidays, History and Values

### Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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**Number of Graduate Semester Units:** 3 units  
**Target Audience:** K - 12th grade teachers  
**Course Access:** <https://connect.fresno.edu>

#### Course Description

Holidays are enjoyed by most everyone, but few clearly understand the meanings, traditions, and values behind these special days. Holidays tell us much about the past, and also about the values that those in the present find worth preserving for the future. Using holidays to teach in a variety of subject areas across the K-12 curriculum can be an enriching and interesting way to communicate content standards and values. This course examines over 30 holidays observed in America, explains their history, and stimulates thoughtful analysis about the values these days of celebration and remembrance promote. Through a concise and helpful historical resource book authored by the instructor and by means of a variety of learning activities, students will gain a new appreciation for holidays and their potential as a significant interdisciplinary teaching tool.

**Note:** There is no required book for this course.

#### Required Texts and Course Materials

**Course Materials:** All materials will be provided in the course learning management system. Students will need access to the internet for research purposes.

**Online Resources:** Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

**Canvas:** This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

#### Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

## National Standards Addressed in This Course

### National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [\*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do\*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

**National Social Science Curriculum Standards** (see Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies, Bulletin 89, 4th printing, 1994)

Include 10 thematic “strands,” of which this course touches upon eight. These are: I Culture II Time, Continuity, and Change III People, Places, and Environment V Individuals, Groups, and Institutions VI Power, Authority, and Governance VII Production, Distribution, and Consumption IX Global Connections, and X Civic Ideals and Practices This course is also designed to meet the State of California standard for Grade One which States in Section 1.3: Students know and understand the symbols, icons, and traditions of the United States that provide continuity and a sense of community across time; Sub-section (2): Students understand the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.

**Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org))

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade span.

### Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1 | Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use. |
| CE 2 | Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.                                                                              |
| CE 3 | Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.                                                                     |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| CE 4 | Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.                                        |
| CE 5 | Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.                                                                                                      |
| CE 6 | Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information. |

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for This Course

| <b>Student Learning Outcomes for This Course</b><br>By the end of this course student will be able to:                                                                                                                                                        | <b>National Standards Addressed in This Course*</b> | <b>Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes Addressed**</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Describe the people, places, events, and locations important to the historical background of significant holidays celebrated in the United States.                                                                                                         | 1, 3, 5, 9, 10                                      | CE 1, CE 2, CE 6                                                          |
| 2. Explain the importance of holidays in shaping and transmitting cultural traditions and values                                                                                                                                                              | 1, 2                                                | CE 4                                                                      |
| 3. Identify opportunities to use holidays to teach values and civic ideals.                                                                                                                                                                                   | 10                                                  | CE 3, CE 5                                                                |
| 4. Analyze the historical processes by which meanings and values associated with holidays have both changed over time and remained constant.                                                                                                                  | 2, 10                                               | CE 2, CE 6                                                                |
| 5. Analyze the emotional impact (and hence the potential teaching-learning impact) of holidays in the lives of people of all ages; identify how holidays impact the human spirit and present opportunities for serious reflection about major issues in life. | 1, 5                                                | CE 4, CE 5                                                                |
| 6. Identify opportunities for utilizing holidays as an interesting way to teach about various disciplines within the curriculum.                                                                                                                              | 1, 3                                                | CE 3, CE 4                                                                |
| 7. Describe the impact of powerful individuals and/or institutions in developing holidays and how they have been celebrated.                                                                                                                                  | 5                                                   | CE 1, CE 2                                                                |
| 8. Compare and celebrate the global connections, as well as cultural differences, that holidays demonstrate.                                                                                                                                                  | 1, 9                                                | CE 2, CE 4                                                                |
| 9. Describe the impact that certain holidays have on the national economy.                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8                                                   | CE 2                                                                      |
| 10. Articulate the personal impact of holidays on one's world view and experiences.                                                                                                                                                                           | 1, 5                                                | CE 1, CE 4                                                                |

|                                                                                                      |   |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|
| 11. Make connections within lessons designed around holidays to various curriculum content standards | 6 | CE 1, CE 4 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|

\* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

\*\* Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

## Topics, Assignments, and Activities

| Module Title                                               | Module Assignments and Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Points Possible                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome Module</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Video</li> <li>Course Syllabus</li> <li>Introduce Yourself Forum</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                          |
| <b>Module 1 – History Behind the Holidays</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Personal Reflection Essay</li> <li>1.2 Discussion Forum and reply</li> <li>1.3 Holiday Survey</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         | 20 pts<br>5 pts<br>40 pts                |
| <b>Module 2 – Holiday Character Analysis</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Holiday Character Analysis</li> <li>2.2 Discussion Forum and reply</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 30 pts<br>5 pts                          |
| <b>Module 3 – Holidays and Values</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Exploring Holiday Values</li> <li>3.2 Discussion Forum and reply</li> <li>3.3 Holidays Across the Curriculum</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                          | 30 pts<br>5 pts<br>30 pts                |
| <b>Module 4 – Develop and Teach a Lesson</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Develop and Teach a Lesson</li> <li>4.2 Discussion Forum and reply</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 40 pts<br>5 pts                          |
| <b>Module 5 – Interviews and Creating Your Own Holiday</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Interviews</li> <li>5.2 Discussion forum</li> <li>5.3 Create a Holiday</li> <li>5.4 Discussion Forum and reply</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                        | 30 pts<br>5 pts<br>20 pts<br>5 pts       |
| <b>Module 6 – Religious Holidays and Public Schools</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Research a public school district's policy toward how to handle the religious aspects of holidays with religious roots.</li> <li>6.2 Internet Research on Islamic Holidays</li> <li>6.3 Professional Development Presentation</li> <li>6.4 Application and Evaluation</li> </ul> | 20 pts<br><br>20 pts<br>30 pts<br>10 pts |
| <b>Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Reflection Forum</li> <li>Course Evaluation</li> <li>Course Completion Checklist</li> <li>Grade Request / Transcript Request</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |                                          |
|                                                            | <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>500 points</b>                        |

## Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

### Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

### Grading Rubrics

| Grade | Percentage | Description  | Rubric                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A     | 90-100%    | Excellent    | Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.            |
| B     | 80-89%     | Very Good    | Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.                 |
| NC    | Below 80%  | Unacceptable | Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship. |

### Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organization structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

### Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate.

Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

### **Discussion Forum Requirements**

- **Superior:** Response was at least 1 page (3 fully developed paragraphs) in length. Thoroughly answered all the posed questions, followed all the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is clear, concise, and easy to understand. Uses terminology appropriately and is logically organized.
- **Standard:** Response was ½ to 1 page in length (2-3 fully developed paragraphs). Answered all the questions but did not provide an in-depth analysis, followed most of the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is comprehensible, but there are a few passages that are difficult to understand. The organization is generally good.
- **Sub-standard:** Response was less than ½ page in length (1 paragraph). Did not answer all the required questions and/or statements or responses were superficial, vague, or unclear, did not follow the assignment directions, many grammar and spelling errors. Is adequately written, but may use some terms incorrectly; may need to be read two or more times to be understood.

### **Instructor/Student Contact Information**

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. A virtual office is utilized for class questions and students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

### **Discussion Forums**

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

### **Coursework Hours**

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable

accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrar-office/academic-catalogs>

## Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

**Getting Help with Canvas:** If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: [helpdesk@fresno.edu](mailto:helpdesk@fresno.edu). Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

## Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to request their final grade by accessing the form at [ce.fresno.edu/grade-request](https://ce.fresno.edu/grade-request). Once the instructor receives the request and posts their final grade, students will receive an email communication from the University. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted before you order your transcripts online.

## University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrar-office/academic-catalogs>.

## Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication:</b> Students will <i>exhibit</i> clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically <i>evaluate</i> content and delivery components.                                                 |
| <b>Written Communication:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.                                          |
| <b>Content Knowledge:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.                                                                                                   |
| <b>Reflection:</b> Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.                                                                                            |
| <b>Critical Thinking:</b> Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations. |

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| <b>Moral Reasoning:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Service:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Cultural and Global Perspective:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Quantitative Reasoning:</b> Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Information Literacy:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information. |