

Introduction to American Studies ・ アメリカ研究入門

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Office Hours: Fridays, 3rd period, or by appointment

Course Description

This first-year course aims to introduce students to the history and culture of the U.S. while also developing academic reading, writing and listening skills. The course will cover the history of the United States from the colonial period until the late 20th century. The final weeks of the course will focus on one or two special topics in contemporary American culture and society.

Course Objectives

In this class, students will

- improve reading, writing and listening skills, especially skills related to the TOEFL test
- expand their academic English vocabulary
- learn how to write a short research essay
- learn about the cultural history of the United States

Textbook and Teaching Materials

- Bryn O'Callaghan. *An Illustrated History of the United States*. Longman, 2003. (Photocopies / PDF)
- Copies of the textbook are available in the SALC (Learning Support Wing, Building 4, 4F)
- Introduction to American Studies Homepage: <http://www.chukyoiebei.org/ias>

Course Evaluation

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| Weekly Reading and Listening Tests | 70% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Important Information

- Reading Tests: Each week there will be about 4 pages of reading from the textbook. There will be a short test on the reading. The tests will focus on important facts and ideas in the readings as well as your understanding of the information. Missed tests cannot be made up later. Tests will include some TOEFL iBT style questions.
- Students who miss more than 5 classes will receive a grade of F.
- Reading-Listening-Writing Test: There will be one special TOEFL-style test.
- The final exam is a short research essay. Details will be available later in the semester.

For International Exchange Students

- While this course is a “sheltered” academic course for language learners, international students will find the course content differs little from introductory courses in American studies, except that the course takes a chronological rather than a thematic approach.
- Weekly tests may contain different test formats than those given to Japanese students in the class, mostly of the short answer and essay variety.
- International students may play an expanded role in the class, for example, as teaching assistants, as presenters, as test graders, as creators of podcasts, or as test designers/editors.
- Otherwise, regulations concerning attendance, evaluation and completion of assignments are the same for all students.

Introduction to American Studies Homepage <<http://www.chukyoiebei.org/ias>>:

- 1) The “American Culture Podcast,” which gives help with the assigned readings and weekly tests
- 2) Research links, writing skills and other information to help with the writing of the final exam essay
- 3) Answers for in-class lecture worksheets

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Tests

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| Week 1 (April 7th): | Course introduction, syllabus, questionnaire and writing sample Reading for week 2: 'The First Americans,' pages 4-7. |
| Week 2 (April 14th): | Lecture Topic: 1600-1800, Colonial Life and American Independence Reading Test on 'The First Americans,' pages 4-7 Reading for week 3: 'Colonial Life in America,' pages 20-23 |
| Week 3 (April 21st): | Lecture Topic: The Early 1800s, Westward Expansion and Industrialization Reading Test on 'Colonial Life in America,' pages 20-23 Reading for week 4: 'West to the Pacific,' pages 40-43 |
| Week 4 (April 28th): | Lecture Topic: 1860-1870, Civil War and Reconstruction Reading Test on 'West to the Pacific,' pages 40-43 Reading for week 5: 'Reconstruction,' pages 54-57 |
| Week 5 (May 12th): | Lecture Topic: The Late 1800s, Assimilation and Immigration Reading Test on 'Reconstruction,' pages 54-57 Reading for week 6: 'The Amerindians' Last Stand,' pages 66-71 |
| Week 6 (May 19th): | Lecture Topic: The 1920s and 1930s, Boom and Bust Reading Test on 'The Amerindians' Last Stand,' pages 66-71 Reading for week 7: 'Crash and Depression,' pages 96-99 |
| NOTE: May 26th: | Class cancelled. Make-up class: TBA |
| Week 7 (June 2nd): | Lecture Topic: The 1940s and 1950s, Hot and Cold Wars Reading Test on 'Crash and Depression,' pages 96-99 Reading for week 8: 'Cold War and Korea,' pages 116-119 |
| Week 8 (June 9th): | Lecture Topic: The 1960s and 1970s, Changing Times Reading Test on 'Cold War and Korea,' pages 116-119 Reading for week 9: 'Black Americans,' pages 112-115 |
| Week 9 (June 16th): | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Reading Test on 'Black Americans,' pages 112-115 Reading for week 10: 'An End to the Cold War?,' pages 132-135 |
| Week 10 (June 23rd): | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Reading Test on 'An End to Cold War?' pages 132-135 Workshop on final exam preparation |
| Week 11 (June 30th) | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Make-up test: Write or Re-write one in-class test from weeks 2-10 |
| Week 12 (June 7th) | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Reading-Lecture-Writing Test (TOEFL practice) Workshop on final exam preparation |
| Week 13 (July 14th) | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Workshop on final exam preparation. <u>Essay draft, outline, source list due</u> |
| Week 14 TBA | Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s. Workshop on final exam preparation |
| Week 15 (July 21st): | Final Exam |