

American Culture: A Survey of the Cultural History of the United States

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 4th period, or by appointment

Course Description:

Students in this course will learn about the history and culture of the United States from the colonial period until the late 20th century. The final weeks of the course will focus on a special topic in contemporary American culture.

Course Objectives:

In this class, you will

- improve your reading and listening skills, especially skills related to TOEIC and TOEFL tests
- expand your academic 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.

American Culture Homepage: <http://www.chukyoiebei.org/usc>

Course Evaluation:

Weekly Reading and Listening Tests	70%
Final Exam	30%

Important Information:

- Regular attendance is important. You cannot miss more than 3 classes.
- 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 done later.
- Listening Tests: There will also be a few short listening tests on the class lectures.
- On the final exam, you will a choice of short answer topics. Details will be available later in the semester.
- Please bring a passport-size photograph of yourself (color or black & white) next week. Write your name and student number on the back.

For International Exchange Students:

- Weekly tests for international students may contain different test formats than those given to your Japanese classmates. If you have questions, please email me for details.
- There will be some opportunities for international students to play an expanded role in this class, for example, as a teacher's assistant, as presenters, as test graders and test designers/editors. Depending on your academic interests and career plans, you may find this useful in your professional development. Please come to see me if you are interested in such a role.

Visit the American Culture Homepage for:

- 1) lecture podcasts focussing on the readings to be tested
- 2) research links and other information to help you write your final exam essay

<http://www.chukyoiebei.org/usc>

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Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Tests

Week 1 (Sept. 25th):	Course introduction, syllabus, questionnaire, and writing sample Reading for week 2: 'The First Americans,' pages 4-7. Bring a passport-size photo of yourself for next week.
Week 2 (Oct. 2nd):	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 (Oct. 9th):	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 (Oct. 16th):	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 (Oct. 23rd):	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 (Oct. 30th):	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
Week 7 (Nov. 6th):	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 (Nov. 13th):	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 (Nov. 20th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Reading Test on 'Black Americans,' pages 112-115 Reading for week 10: 'An End to the Cold War?,' pages 132-135
Week 10 (Nov. 27th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Reading Test on 'An End to the Cold War?' pages 132-135 Writing workshop
Week 11 (Dec. 4th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Test make-up: Write or Re-write one in-class test from weeks 2-9
Week 12 (Dec. 11th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Listening Test: "American History: The 1990s" (VOA Special English) Workshop on final exam preparation
Week 13 (Dec. 18th)	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Workshop on final exam preparation. <u>Essay draft and outline due.</u>
Week 14 (Jan. 8th)	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Workshop on final exam preparation
Week 15 (Jan. 15th):	Final Exam