

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

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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 and listening skills, especially skills related to the TOEFL test
- expand their 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. (Photocopies / PDF)
- Introduction to American Studies Homepage: <http://www.chukyoiebei.org/usc>

Course Evaluation

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.
- Students who miss more than 5 classes will receive a grade of F.
- Listening Tests: There will also be listening tests on class lectures or a special VOA news program.
- 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 a 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/usc>>:

- 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

Week 1 (April 8th):	Course introduction, syllabus, questionnaire, and writing sample Reading for week 2: 'The First Americans,' pages 4-7.
Week 2 (April 15th):	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 22nd):	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 (May 6th):	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 13th):	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 20th):	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 (May 27th):	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 3rd):	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 10th):	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 17th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Reading Test on 'An End to the Cold War?' pages 132-135 Workshop on final exam preparation
Week 11 (June 24th):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Make-up test: Write or Re-write one in-class test from weeks 2-10
Week 12 (July 1st):	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980-2000 Listening Test: VOA Special English Program Workshop on final exam preparation
Week 13 (July 8th)	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Workshop on final exam preparation. <u>Essay draft, outline, source list due</u>
Week 14 (July 15th)	Special Lecture Topic: Contemporary America, 1980s-2000s Workshop on final exam preparation
Week 15 (July 22nd):	Final Exam