

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SYLLABUS

**Title of the Course:** IED 293 American History and Culture (Elective)

**Year and Term:** 2018-2019 Fall

**Class Hours:** Tuesday 13:00-15:50 **Classroom:** ZNG

**Instructor:** Dr. Aslı Değirmenci

**E-mail:** [aslidegirmenci01@gmail.com](mailto:aslidegirmenci01@gmail.com)

**Aim and Content:** The course aims to give a survey of American culture and history from the Colonial Era to the present. Important historical figures, events and movements in American culture and history will be studied in a chronological order. Representative cultural and historical texts from each period will be discussed in class in relation to the social, historical, and cultural climate of the period in question.

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1 (Oct 9):** Introduction to the class and the syllabus.

**Week 2 (Oct 16):** Pre-colonial and Colonial Period  
“Mayflower Compact”  
Captain John Smith, from “The General History of Virginia”

**Week 3 (Oct 23):** Revolutionary Period  
Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence”  
St Jean de Crevecoeur, “What is an American”  
George Washington, from “Farewell Address”

**Week 4 (Oct 30):** New England Renaissance: Age of Romanticism and Transcendentalism (1830-1860)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature,” “Self-Reliance”  
Henry David Thoreau, “On Civil Disobedience”

**Week 5 (Nov 6):** (continued)  
Tecumseh, “Sell a Country? Why Not Sell the Air?”  
Chief Seattle, “The Dead Are Not Powerless”  
“Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions” at Seneca Falls Convention  
Margaret Fuller “Woman in the Nineteenth Century”

**Week 6 (Nov 13):** Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction (1865-1877)  
Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I a Woman”  
“The Auction Block” “A Peep into a Slave-Mart”  
Abraham Lincoln, “Final Emancipation Proclamation”, “The Gettysburg Address”

**Week 7 (Nov 20):** Age of Realism (The Gilded Age) 1865-1910  
Mark Twain, from “Life on the Mississippi”  
Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History”  
Henry James, from “The Inconceivable Alien”  
Kate Chopin “Desiree’s Baby”  
William Dubois “This Double-Consciousness”  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, from “Women and Economics”

**Week 8 (Nov 27):** World War I, Jazz Age, The Great Depression  
William James, “Pragmatism”  
Upton Sinclair, “The Jungle”  
Woodrow Wilson “The Fourteen Points”  
Scenes from *The Great Gatsby* (movie)  
Meridel LeSueur, “Women on the Breadlines”

**Week 9 (Dec 4):** MIDTERM

**Week 10 (Dec 11):** WW II, Cold War, American Globalism, Mid-Century  
Harry Truman “The Truman Doctrine”  
George C. Marshall “The Marshall Plan”  
Joseph McCarthy “The Wheeling Speech”  
Walt Disney’s Testimony

**Week 11 (Dec 18):** Postmodern Era, the 60s, Civil Rights Movement, Counterculture  
Martin Luther King, “I Have a Dream”  
Malcolm X “The Ballot or the Bullet”  
John F. Kennedy “First Inaugural Address”  
Lyndon Johnson “American Policy in Viet-Nam”  
Betty Friedan “That Has No Name”  
Woodstock, Rock and Roll Songs

**Week 12 (Dec 25):** Rise of Conservatism, First Gulf War  
George Bush, “The Launch of Attack on Iraq”  
E.L. Doctorow, “Open Letter to the President”

**Week 13 (Jan 1):** NO CLASS. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Week 14 (Jan 8):** 9/11, War on Terror  
21<sup>st</sup> Century, Obama, Trump  
**Term Paper Due, hardcopies & turnitin**

**The reading materials for each week will be uploaded by the instructor to this google drive folder:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1NaxakJKkcoE3-yNOTZxgXumVIEyYZ8Kn>

**It is the student’s responsibility to print out, read, and bring a hard-copy of the readings to the classroom.**

**IV. Method of Instruction:** The course will begin with introductory lectures which will later on be followed by a close study of the weekly reading materials through critical discussions in the class room.

**V. Requirements:** Full attendance is unconditionally required. **More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1.** The students are expected to do weekly required readings in advance.

**VI. Assessments:** There will be one midterm examination, a term paper, a few pop quizzes on the weekly readings, and a final exam. In grading the exam papers %25 of the total mark will be taken off for grammar mistakes and writing errors.

Midterm examination: % 20

Term Paper: %20

Student Group Presentation: % 10

Final: %50

**Student Group Presentation:** Each week a group of students (4 or 5 students) will prepare a 10-minute presentation on that week’s topic emphasizing either the historical or the cultural components of that specific era. It is each student’s responsibility to communicate with other students in his/her group, meet with them, and prepare accordingly for the presentation.

**Term Paper:** Students are expected to write a term paper (1300-1700 words) on a contemporary topic or work in American society by also using the historical texts we read all semester. The due date for the term paper is January 8, 2019. Students should both submit a hard to the instructor and upload their term paper to the turnitin.com. The class ID and password for this class on turnitin is listed below:

The Class ID: 19348149

The Password: 123456