

Hacettepe University
Faculty of Letters
Department of English Language and Literature

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 293 (01) American History and Culture (Elective)

Year and Term: 2015-2016 Fall

Class Day and Hours: Friday/ 13:00-16:00

Classroom: B2/205

I. Course Description (Aim and Content)

The aim of this course is to enable the student to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competence required to identify, evaluate and discuss American history and culture with reference to social, political, philosophical, literary, and cultural developments, starting from the precolonial period to the present.

II. Course Outline

Week I (Sep. 18) General Introduction and Early America

- a. USA at a Glance (geography, demography, government, economy, etc)
- b. Precolonial History (Ice Age travelers, Eric the Red, Columbus, Conquistadores)

Week II (Sep. 25) **No class**

Week III (Oct. 2) Colonial Period

- a. Raleigh Expedition, Jamestown, Mayflower
- b. Colonial economy and slavery
- c. Puritanism and Salem Witchcraft Trials

Week IV (Oct. 9) Revolutionary Period

- a. England and France in the New World
- b. Economic, political and intellectual background of revolution (Stamp tax, Age of Reason, Deism)
- c. Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, Continental Congresses, Paine's *Common Sense*, Declaration of Independence, Treaty of Paris 1783)

Week V (Oct. 16) American Romanticism (1800-1860)

- a. Mexican War

Week VI (Oct. 23) **MID-TERM I**

Week VI (Oct. 30) **No class**

Week VII (Nov. 6) The American Renaissance (1840-1860)

- a. California Gold Rush (1848-1855)
- b. American Frontier

Week VIII (Nov. 13) Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction (1865-1877)

- a. Cotton economy, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation 1863
- b. The Confederacy-Robert E. Lee vs. Union-Ulysses S. Grant
- c. The Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," KKK

Week IX (Nov. 20) Age of Realism (The Gilded Age) 1865-1910

- a. Rise of the West, cowboys

Week X (Nov. 27) The Modern Age

- a. First World War, Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points"
- b. Jazz Age, Gangsters, Wall Street Crash
- c. Second World War

Week XI (Dec. 4) **MID-TERM II**

Week XII (Dec. 11) Postwar Period, Postmodern Era

- a. Civil rights movement, Black Power, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X
- b. Women's rights, Feminism
- c. Vietnam War, Hippies, Rock'n Roll

Week XIII (Dec. 18) Cold War Period, Star Wars Project, First Gulf War

Week XIV (Dec. 25) 9/11 and aftermath and Wrap-up

III. Method of Instruction

This course will be conducted mainly through lectures and class discussions. The students (either individually or as a group) are also expected to present oral reports on certain topics. The course will be supported through such visual materials as documentaries, movies, and videos, which will be shown and/or assigned to the students periodically throughout the semester.

IV. Requirements

- The students are expected to come to the class, having read the assigned material. For each reading material, they are supposed to prepare discussion questions either individually or as a group, and they are expected to participate in class discussions and group activities.
- Since this is an afternoon class, all students should be on time for it. Those who are late more than 10 minutes (e.g. 13:11) will not be allowed in.
- All the announcements in relation to this class will be made either orally in class or posted on the instructor's door. So, students are responsible for checking the posts regularly to keep up with updated deadlines and/or assignments.
- This is an attendance-compulsory class. More than 11 hours of absence (e.g. 12) will result in F1. If you have any health problems or other obstacles that might cause trouble for your attendance, please let your instructor know beforehand.
- Also, the students must prove their excuse by submitting a medical report taken on the day of the exam to the department in order to ask for a make-up exam.

V. Assessment

The students will be receiving marks for all types of written and oral work they do such as research tasks and in-class workshops. There will be two Mid-Terms and a Final examination. In the grading of the examination papers, up to 25 % of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. Class participation will be seriously taken into consideration while giving the final grades. Marks below 50 in the Final Exam will be regarded as failure (F3). There will be one term paper (creative/research), giving an imaginative/informative account of any specific era in American history of each student's choice, and it will be submitted on **Nov. 25**.

Mid-Term I	20 %
Mid-Term II	20 %
Participation	10 %
Term paper	10 %
Final Exam	40 %

Bonus (Reviews)	10%

VI. **Required Texts:** There is no specific textbook for this course. Necessary reading material will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

VII. Supplementary Reading List

- Foner, Eric. *Give me Liberty!: An American History*. W.W. Norton & Co.: New York and London, 2009.
- Inge, M. Thomas. *A Nineteenth-Century Reader*. US Information Agency: Washington, 1987.
- Lane, Jack ve Maurice O'Sullivan. *A Twentieth Century American Reader*. US Information Agency: Washington, 1999.
- Lemay, J. A. Leo, ed. *An Early American Reader*. US Information Agency: Washington, 1990.
- Mary Beth Norton, David M. Kateman, Paul D. Escott, et. al, eds. *A People and A Nation: A History of the United States*. 4th ed. Vol. 2. Houghton Mifflin: Boston and Toronto, 1994.
- Sklar, Robert. *Movie-Made America: A Cultural History of American Movies*. Vintage: New York, 1975.
- Stevenson, Douglas K. *American Life and Institutions*. Ernst Klett Verlag: Stuttgart, 1996.
- Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. Harper-Perennial: New York, 2005.

Other relevant books and/or articles.

Good Luck ☺