

The University of Jordan
Faculty of Foreign Languages
The Department of English

Course Title: Introduction to American Studies

Course Number: 2201479

Course Description:

American culture is diverse, and like most cultures worldwide, the diverse history defines the national character of America. America is also a nation of contradictions. American culture's political and social culture has contributed to its evolution from a "New Eden" to its latest role as a neo-imperialistic power. In addition to the assigned anthology, we will be reading several literary texts in order to determine how diversity in the arts, social movements, and the role of politics have evolved and shaped American identity and culture.

Objectives:

This course aims at

- Introducing the students to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies and its diversity
- Familiarizing students with the multi-faceted nature of American identity
- Enabling students to think critically about themes and issues which compose the American character.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, the students are expected to be able to:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various periods of American history and culture
- Demonstrate a basic comprehension of chronology of the evolution of American history

B. Intellectual/Cognitive/Analytical Skills

- Develop the necessary analytical and critical thinking skills to examine various texts
- Critique ideas, theories and historical events within the American culture and compare and contrast those within an international framework
- Produce coherent, meaningful, and logically contrasted essays.

C. Transferable Skills

- Develop the skill to argue, both orally and in writing, effectively.
- Adopt life-long reading habits,
- Apply critical thinking skills in real-life situations, and
- Employ knowledge about the American culture in interaction with others in an increasingly multi-cultural world.

Course Policy:

- You are expected to be in class on time. Students coming late will be allowed to enter but will be counted as absent.
- Participation is very important. It does not merely mean attending class; it involves being fully prepared beforehand, fully attentive during class and positively enriching class discussions and presentations.
- Since the class meets on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, you are allowed up to 7 absences, including those with medical reports. If you exceed this limit you will not be allowed to sit for the final exam.
- **No make-up exams. No exceptions.**

Textbook:

A photocopied package will be ready for students as the semester starts. The package is a collection of articles, fiction and poetry, which tackle various issues and themes within the American Culture, and the field of American Studies. There will also be some media material that will be provided by the instructor on previously announced dates to which students are required to response in a written form that is handed in class on our next meeting. On various occasions, students will be given handouts that also support the themes of different classes and topics.

Assessment:

Midterm	30%
Project*	10%
Participation	1%
Final exam	50%

*Before the end of the course, students should hand in their projects which can either be traditional research paper (6-10 pages, typed and providing references) or some kind of an untraditional production (media, poetry, aesthetic production, etc). In any case, the topics and themes of the projects should be directly related to the American Culture and the field of American Studies. Students should choose their research areas by the second week of the course and inform the instructor for advice. Students are free to research from a variety of fields including technology, anthropology, art, media, politics, etc. The final production should clearly present a specific topic and provide solid analysis, criticism, or evaluation to the major themes, ideology, or events.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule:

Week & Date	Author/Text	Note
Week One	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Amy Kaplan, "Violent Belongings and the Question of Empire Today"</p>	
Week Two	<p>Said on AMST</p> <p>Malini Johar Schueller, "The Borders and Limits of American Studies: A Picture from Beirut"</p>	
Week Three	<p>Melani McAlister, <i>Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000</i></p> <p>"p. 1-39 + p.266-307"</p>	
Week Four	<p>T.V Reed, <i>The Art of Protest</i></p> <p>"P. 103- 128"</p>	
Week Five	<p>Frantz Fanon "Black Skin White Masks"</p> <p>"Ch5 p. 109- 140"</p>	Frantz Fanon "Documentary"
Week Six	<p>Battle of Algeria (Movie)</p>	
Week Seven		
	Mid Term Exam	
Week Eight	<p>Amin Maalouf, On Identity</p> <p>p.7-25 , p.97-128</p>	Francis Fukuyama, " The End of History"

Week Nine	Omar Dahbour, <i>The Jewish State</i> (p. 125- 131) + <i>The Discovery of India</i> (p. 248-254) + <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (p.274-283) +	
Week Ten	Jamal&Naber, eds, <i>Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11</i> "Chs 3 + 5"	J. William Fulbright, <i>The Arrogance of Power</i> Imagined Communities
Week Eleven	Spivake, <i>Can the Subaltern Speak</i>	-Noam Chomsky/ /Darweesh -Imagined communities, Critical Race Theory -Manifest Destiny
Week Twelve		Inside Mecca "Documentary" The Glass house "Documentary" The Visiter
Week Thirteen		AIM American Indian Movement Black Panthers Party The Tea Party (the new one)
Week Fourteen		Jack shaheen. Azmi bishara, <i>Religion</i>
Week Fifteen		
Week Sixteen		