Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Fall 2021

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| Course Title (Credits) | ASN355-1 North American Thought and Culture (3 credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | Teacher Certification-related course, Discipline – related course, Required by Article 66.6 |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Hironori Hayase |
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| Office/Ext | MIC1-208 / 3716 |
| Office hours | Wednesday 1:00-3:00, Friday 1:00-3:00; and by appointment |

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| Course Description: | | |
| From the Course Bulletin: This course introduces American culture of the last two centuries. The course consists of two sections: the first section is a stage at which students can get a broad knowledge about some important historical and cultural events in American history, and the latter is the discussion section about the current topics and issues America is faced with.  In the first part, students will gather the information on each topic and know about it in American history divided into six periods by the change of Americanism: Creation (1492-1816), Assertion(1817-1865), Development(1866-1919), Conflict (1920-1945) , Expansion and Multi Culturalism(1946-1989), and Fluctuation (1990- the present). In each period, four or five topics are chosen. In the latter, students will consider and discuss some current problems in American based on the knowledge they have acquired in the first section. Five problems will be chosen: Racial Discrimination, Guns, Capitalism, Multi-culturalism, and Terror. Through this course, students will be able to understand the American way of thinking. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| Overall Objectives:  To mater a language it is necessary to know about its culture and thoughts: language is culture, and culture is language. To understand American thoughts and culture, first, we will learn some basic knowledge about details of history, society, and cultures in America from the foundation of the country to the present by gathering and analyzing many historical, cultural and literary texts and data written in English. Afterward, based on the broad knowledge of American culture and history, students will consider and discuss some typical issues and topics often discussed in America, which are deeply rooted in American society and history. Opinions and ideas will be shared in the class by presentation in English.  During the semester, students should aim to improve their English skills. Of course reading comprehension should be one area of improvement. To succeed in class, however, students must also speak, write, and listen well. Because we will analyze policy decisions, literature, and other documents, it is also important for students to have good discussion skills. Students should aim to summarize others’ points of view, agree or disagree, and give their own reasoned opinions in response.  The course aims to help you to do the following:  -Guide you in asking as well as answering good questions.  -Heighten your mastery of communication (writing, listening, presenting)  -Increase your overall proficiency in analysis and discussion.  -Sharpen your understanding of North American thought and culture.  -Level up your ability to create, develop, and test original arguments   \_\_ Summarize complex information accurately  \_\_ Evaluate a theory, hypothesis, or interpretation with evidence  \_\_ Provide alternative explanations for observations  \_\_ Think of additional information that may be necessary to solve a problem  \_\_ Separate relevant from irrelevant information  \_\_ Synthesize information from separate sources to solve a real-world problem  \_\_ Explain how new evidence might change the solution to a real-world problem  In addition, per TC requirements, the course aims to do the following in each class session:  ◊ Learning Contents:  [1] Events in American History  [2] Current Issues in America  [3] Literary or historical Texts  ◊ Attainment objectives:  1) To understand the basic details of the history, society and cultures in America  2) To analyze historical and cultural texts and data written in English  3) To understand and discuss the current issues in America  4) To express ideas and opinions logically in English | | |
| Course Schedule NOTE: I reserve the right to amend this schedule at any time | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introductions | Introduction; What is America? What is Americanism? |
| 2 | Unit 1:  Creation of Americanism  (1492-1816) | Overview of the Period:  Creation of Americanism  (1492-1816)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 3 | Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 4 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 5 | Unit 2:  Assertion of Americanism  (1817-1865) | Overview of the Period:  Assertion of Americanism  (1817-1865)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 6 | Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 7 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 8 | Unit 3:  Development of Americanism  (1866-1919) | Overview of the Period:  Development of Americanism  (1866-1919)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 9 | Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 10 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 11 | Unit 4:  Conflict of Americanism  (1920-1945) | Overview of the Period:  Conflict of Americanism  (1920-1945)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 12 | Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 13 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 14 | Unit 5:  Expansion and Multiculturalism of Americanism  (1946-1989) | Overview of the Period:  Expansion and Multiculturalism of Americanism  (1946-1989)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 15 | Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 16 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 17 | Unit 6:  Fluctuation of Americanism  (1990-the present) | Overview of the Period:  Fluctuation of Americanism  (1990-the present)  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| Group Discussion of a topic chosen  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4) |
| 18 | Presentation about the topic  (Attainment Objectives 1, 4) |
| 19 | Overview of the Period  (Attainment Objectives 1, 2) |
| 20 | Mid-term Examination |  |
| 21 | Unit 7: Racial Discrimination | Gathering Information about the theme  (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3) |
| 22 | Presentation & Discussion about the theme  Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) |
| 23 | Unit 8:  Guns | Gathering Information about the theme  (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3) |
| 24 | Presentation & Discussion about the theme  Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) |
| 25 | Unit 9:  Capitalism | Gathering Information about the theme  (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3) |
| 26 | Presentation & Discussion about the theme  Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) |
| 27 | Unit 10:  Multi-culturalism | Gathering Information about the theme  (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3) |
| 28 | Presentation & Discussion about the theme  Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) |
| 29 | Unit 11:  Terror | Gathering Information about the theme  (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3) |
| 30 | Presentation & Discussion about the theme  Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) |
|  |  | Final Projects DUE |
| Required Materials: | | |
| 1. Textbook:   *A History of American Literature from the 21st century: Change in Americanism*. Ed. Hironori Hayase (Eiho-sha, 2018)  (2) Data and texts in the College Library and the Internet. | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| |  | | --- | | A**ttendance, as such,  is  not  part  of  the  final  grade  –  BUT  participation  is!**  **Late homework will not be accepted, unless the student has an official reason (absence) preventing**  **the student from submitting the homework on time.**  Since  the  work  we  do  in  this  course  is  cumulative,  your  attendance  is  important.  Regular  class  attendance  is  required.  Students  with  more  than  5  unexcused  absences  will  be  asked  to  withdraw  from  the  class.  Excused  absences  are  those  that  are  defined  as  a  confining  illness,  death  in  the  family,  or  school-sanctioned  event.  For  an  absence  to  be  excused,  you  need  to  have  written  documentation  from  a  doctor  or  campus-organization  sponsor.  Please  come  to  class  on  time.  Repeated  lateness  will  be  considered  an  unexcused  absence  and  not  only  affect  participation  points  and  final  grade  but  also  your  status  in  the  class.  3  Times  late = 1  absence  >  30  minutes  late = 1  absence | | Class Preparation and Review | | Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing and doing homework.  As we will meet for three hours a week, you are expected to spend six hours per week preparing and reviewing for this course. | | Grades and Grading Standards | | Grades will be determined as follows:  Written Assignments 20 %  Homework 10 %  Group Discussion 20 %  Participation 10 %  Presentations 20 %  Exams (Midterm and Final) 20 % | | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| Detailed assignment sheets outlining expectations for projects, responses, reflections, presentations, and so on will be given to you in class and will be available on our class website.  In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comments, rubric, etc. | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. Some written work will be graded and commented upon electronically. | | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):  1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)  2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad  knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations  3. The ability to identify and solve problems  4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English | | |
| Notes: | | |

Below is a rubric outlining course objectives and explanations of what it means to proficiently master those objectives.

After reading through the document below, write in what you think it means to exceed expectations and what you think it means to show that you failed to meet expectations in the blanks below. Circle or highlight the sentences that best fit your current level of proficiency. You may not be able to circle every sentence in each box. In the notes section, jot down goals for yourself.

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|  | Developing | Proficient | Advanced |
| Critical Thinking through Active Learning:  (ability to identify and solve problems; information gathering; assessment of credibility) |  | Able to perform data analysis, gather and assess resources, and express opinions. Able to ask and answer questions beyond comprehension level. Able to create and support an original argument. |  |
| Advanced Communication:  (presentations, social skills, email etiquette) | Has difficulty answering immediately to questions. | Able to contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Able to respond when asked to express an opinion. Able respond to a new  situation. Able to research, prepare, and communicate ideas and questions to classmates and instructor verbally and in writing. | I write very good, clear, and polite emails. |
| Global Perspectives:  (cultural relevancy; awareness of current and historical events and global issues) |  | Aware of some current and historical events and world cultures. Demonstrates ability to learn about and understand cultural relevance of issues presented in texts and discussion. |  |
| English Language Ability  (reading, writing, speaking) |  | Proficient verbal and written communication; does not rely only on familiar vocabulary but continues to grow. May make some errors but advances beyond comfort zone, showing growth and effort. |  |
| Information Technology (Use of internet for research, word processing software, additional technology as needed) |  | Is able to adequately navigate online and search, find, and assess resources online. Is able to independently use software for word processing. Can begin to troubleshoot issues with technology independently. |  |