

Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Fall 2022

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	Dr. Hironori Hayase
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Office hours	Wednesday 1:00-3:00, Friday 1:00-3:00; and by appointment

Course Description:

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 Two Americas. Through this course, students will be able to understand the American way of thinking.

Overall Objectives:

To master 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.

Methods of Feedback: About the reports, they will be individually returned with comments and suggestion, and sometimes correction. Generally, feedback is done through the class.

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

Day		
1	Topic	Content/Activities
2	Introductions	Introduction; What is America? What is Americanism?

3	Unit 1: Creation of Americanism (1492-1816)	Overview of the Period: Creation of Americanism (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
4		Group Discussion of a topic chosen (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4)
5		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
6	Unit 2: Assertion of Americanism (1817-1865)	Overview of the Period: Assertion of Americanism (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
7		Group Discussion of a topic chosen (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4)
8		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
9	Unit 3: Development of Americanism (1866-1919)	Overview of the Period: Development of Americanism (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
10		Group Discussion of a topic chosen (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4)
11		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
12	Unit 4: Conflict of Americanism  (1920-1945)	Overview of the Period: Conflict of Americanism (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
13		Group Discussion of a topic chosen (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4)
14		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
15	Unit 5: Expansion and Multiculturalism of Americanism (1946-1989)	Overview of the Period: Expansion and Multiculturalism of Americanism (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
16		Group Discussion of a topic chosen (Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 4)
17		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
18	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)
19		Presentation about the topic (Attainment Objectives 1, 4)
20		Overview of the Period (Attainment Objectives 1, 2)
21	Mid-term Examination	
22	Unit 7: Racial Discrimination	Gathering Information about the theme (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3)
23		Presentation & Discussion about the theme Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
24	Unit 8: Guns	Gathering Information about the theme (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3)

25		Presentation & Discussion about the theme Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
26	Unit 9: Capitalism/Differences between the rich and the poor	Gathering Information about the theme (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3)
27		Presentation & Discussion about the theme Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
28	Unit 10: Multiculturalism/ Immigrants	Gathering Information about the theme (Attainment Objectives 1,2,3)
29		Presentation & Discussion about the theme Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
30	Unit 11: Two Americas	Presentation & Discussion about the theme Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

**Textbook:** You can choose either of them:

(1) *A History of American Literature from the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Change in Americanism.* Ed. Hironori Hayase (Eiho-sha, 2018)

(2) *American History: A Very Short Introduction.* Ed. Paul S. Boyer. Oxford UP, 2012.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.):

**Attendance, 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	30 %
Group Discussion	10 %
Presentations	30 %
Exams (Midterm and Final)	30 %

\*Warning: Students who have not submitted all the written assignments are not allowed to take the final examination.

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.

	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.	