

27822 - History and Culture of the United States

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 27822 - History and Culture of the United States

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 2

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The main objective of this course is the acquisition of a general knowledge of the most important cultural expressions in the history of the United States of America and how they articulate into the political and social processes of each historical period. Students are provided with the basic conceptual tools of cultural critique to contextualize and assess critically the most relevant historical and social developments of the United States as well the culture of everyday life.

The minimum recommended level of English required to take this course is B2.2 on the CEFR scale.

In addition to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) noted in section 6, the expected learning outcomes will contribute to reach Goals 5, 10, 16 y 17.

2. Learning results

Students:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of the history, culture and civilization of the United States of America.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of the current social and economic reality of the United States of America.
- Understand the theoretical concepts relating to the ideas, representations, beliefs and moral values that characterize the United States of America.
- Analyze, interpret and discuss critically, at a B2.2 CEFR English level, cultural texts pertaining to the US national identity.
- Recognize the complexity of the social, historical and cultural developments of the United States of America.
- Develop, put forward and substantiate their arguments for the rest of the class, and present the results of guided research activities about cultural topics at a B2.2 CEFR English level.
- Express, exchange and argue critical views about social, cultural, historical and political aspects of US cultural texts in both spoken and written English.
- Listen to, comprehend, consider and refute the opinions of their peers about concrete aspects of specific texts related to the contents of the course.
- Identify, analyze, synthesize, select and evaluate historical, social, cultural and political events while recognizing their complex nature.
- Write academic essays in English about various historical, social, political and cultural aspects of the United States of America.

3. Syllabus

1. Introduction
2. The Country and Its People
3. The Rise of Colonial America
4. American Revolution: The Constitution and the New Republic
5. Antebellum America

6. The Civil War and Reconstruction
7. The Imperial Republic: Industrialization, Progressivism and Depression
8. From the Liberal Era to the Conservative Revolution

4. Academic activities

1. Teacher-directed activities

- a) Interactive theoretical sessions: Presentation of the basic concepts of each unit.
- b) Practical sessions and group seminars

2. Supervised work activities

- a) Individual and group tutoring sessions: Monitoring of the different steps towards the writing of an academic essay.

3. Autonomous learning activities

- a) Compulsory readings and viewing of audiovisual texts, bibliographic search and online participation.
- b) Writing of short individual essays.

5. Assessment system

The course will be assessed through a global exam (100%) in both official exam sessions consisting of the following parts:

- Part 1: Written exam. (60%)
- Part 2: Essay from a historical, social and cultural perspective. (40%)

Depending on the number of students, the following continuous evaluation system (100%) will be proposed for those students who attend class on a regular basis:

- Part 1: Two written exams. (40%)
- Part 2: Two short essays from a historical, social and cultural perspective (30%)
- Part 3: Completion of autonomous learning activities and class participation (30%)

Assessment criteria for all tasks and exams:

- Knowledge of course contents
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Scholarly rigour in the use of concepts of cultural analysis
- Argumentative and organizational ability and clarity of exposition
- Proficiency in English (B2.2 CEFR level)

6. Sustainable Development Goals

- 4 - Quality Education
- 10 - Reduction of Inequalities
- 17 - Partnerships for the Goals