

General Information

Course name	Contemporary USA	ECTS Credits	4
		Semester	winter

Aims

This is a graduate course designed to examine critical issues in contemporary America. Main focus of the course will be laid on the current political development in the USA as well as the role of the USA in the contemporary world. But critical issues such as race, ethnicity, diversity/pluralism, conservative/liberal values, Americans' views of themselves and how others view America will be discussed. Classes will be mainly discussion oriented with students required participate in discussions and/or to make presentations on regular basis.

Contents

Introductory lesson
Week2-3 US Politics - Basics
Week 4 - 5US Foreign policy
Week6 US Domestic policy
Week7 Tutorials
Week8-9 Human rights in the USA
Week 10 Popular Culture – USA and Pop-Culture
Week 11 US Cultural Domination
Week 12 Final Discussion
Week 13 Tutorials
Week 14 Tutorials

Evaluation

Students are expected to attend each class according to the schedule. No transfers among the groups are allowed. Students are allowed to miss two classes at the most. Should s/he miss three or more classes, s/he will not receive credits for the course. The student must be on time for class or s/he will be marked as absent. Class participation – 20% Research paper – 30% (deadline for the paper: Week 10) Course exam (Final Discussion) – 50% The final grade for the course will be based on the following grading scale: A 100-93% B 92-86% C 85-78% D 77-72% FX 64% and less Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic FX for the course and a memo to the Head of the Department explaining why the FX was awarded.

Bibliography

Alperson, P. ed. (2002). Diversity and Community: An Interdisciplinary Reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
Belk, R. W. & Sherry, Jr., J. F. ed. (2007). Consumer Culture Theory. JAI Press.
Hartley, J. 2002. Communication, Cultural and Media Studies. The Key Concepts. London, New York: Routledge.

Websites:
The New York Times - <http://www.nytimes.com/>
The Washington Post - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
CNN - <http://edition.cnn.com/>
MSNBC - <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/>