

<b>General Information</b>			
<b>Course name</b>	Introduction to American Studies	<b>ECTS Credits</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>Semester</b>	<b>winter</b>
<b>Aims</b>			
<p>The course is intended as an introductory course in American culture and society for British and American Studies undergraduate students. It relates basic facts about life in the USA, including key terms and notions that define it, in order to enable the learner of English to better understand the cultural context within which the English language was developed and is used.</p>			
<b>Contents</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Geography</li> <li>3. Demographics</li> <li>4. Ideas that shaped the US</li> <li>5. Government</li> <li>6. Lifestyles</li> <li>7. Media</li> <li>8. Education</li> <li>9. Religion</li> <li>10. Arts</li> </ol>			
<b>Evaluation</b>			
<p>There will be two tests taking during the semester. The midterm test will cover topics 1-5, the end-of-term test will cover topics 6-10. Each student will need to get a combined score of no less than 65 points in order to be allowed to take the Final Test. The instructor will also be taking attendance every week. Any students deemed unprepared will be marked as absent. The maximum number of absences allowed is 2 per semester.</p> <p>Any student who fails to achieve the required minimum of 65 points on the midterm and end-of-term tests has failed the class. For the rest of the students, the final assessment will be determined solely by their score on the Final Test. The Final Test will be taken during the exam period (Jan- Feb). Two retakes are possible; the most recent score always counts.</p> <p>The instructor will post exam dates in the AIS at the beginning of December and students will sign up for the test well in advance in the AIS. Any registration changes have to be performed no less than 24 hours before the test takes place. The grading scale is A [100-93], B [92-86], C [85-78], D [77-72], E [71-65], FX [64-0].</p>			
<b>Bibliography</b>			
<p>Robert Murphy. Uvod do kulturni a socialni antropologie. SLON, 2004.</p> <p>Portrait of the USA (<a href="http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/factover/homepage.htm">http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/factover/homepage.htm</a>).</p> <p>Oxford Guide to British and American Culture. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2005. (reference book--available at the FF UPJS library).</p> <p>other primary/secondary texts as specified by the instructor</p>			