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| **General Information** |
| **Course name** | American Studies 1 - History and Institutions of the USA  | **ECTS Credits** | **3** |
| **Semester** | **winter** |
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| **Aims** |
| The main objective of the course is to develop and/or improve essential analytical skills in dealing with contemporary cultural problems with the focus on social institutions as the main agents of social changes. The course considers the economic, social and political history of the USA from the earliest period. It provides an explanation of what happened and why. It captures the events, personalities that shaped the nation. It examines how historians have interpreted the past and provides a conceptual framework through which the past can be illuminated  |
| **Contents** |
| Week 1:Introduction Week 2: Identity Week 3: Multiculturalism and Race Week 4: Family Week 5: Film Screening (essay) Week 6: Gender and Gay Liberation Week 7: Religion Week 8: Tutorial Week 9:Class (the American Dream) Week 10: Film Screening (discussion) Week 11:Americanism Week 12: Tutorial Week 13: Tutorial History part : Week 1: Introductory lesson Week 2: Discovery and settlement of the New World Week 3: Independence and nation building Week 4: An emerging identity Week 5: The Jacksonian Era Week 6: TEST 1 Week7 TUTORIALS Week 8: Slavery, Secession and the Civil War Week 9: Reconstruction and the Gilded Age Week 10: World War I Week 11: World War II Week 12 : TEST 2 Week 13 : TUTORIALS Week 14 : TUTORIALS  |
| **Evaluation** |
| Attendance - students are expected to attend each class according to schedule. No transfers among the groups are allowed. Should the student miss three or more classes, he/she will not receive credits for the course no matter what his/her overall results are. Students must be on time for class or they will be marked as absent. Continuous assessment: Students are expected and required to actively participate in each lesson (active participation = participation in discussions based on having read the required texts and watched the required films). Should they fail to participate in discussions they will be marked absent. Final assessment: The final grade will be calculated as a sum of grades from two tests and one essay according to this schedule: A 93-100% B 86-92% C 78-85% D 72-77% E 65-71% FX 64 and less  |
| **Bibliography** |
| The SAGE Dictionary of Cultural Studies, Ch. Barker American Identities, An Introductory Textbook, ed. L.P.Rudnick Representation, Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, ed. S.Hall The Content of Our Character, S.Steele I Am America and So You Can, D. Colbert America, Jean Baudrillard History part : Remini, Robert V. : A short history of the United States. Harper Collins. 2008. Hamby, Alonzo L. : Outline of U.S. history. Grant, Susan-Mary. : A concise history of the United States of America. Cambridge. 2012.materials as recommended by the lecturer  |