

WESTERN CULTURE

29C: Tuesday, Period 1-2, Fall 2013

Instructor: Professor Sonia Meyer, School of Foreign Languages

Office Hours: Monday 10 am-12 pm; Wednesday 2 pm-4 pm

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Course Description

This course is designed to give you an in depth view into American culture and life with general discussions on other Western cultures. We will focus on how these cultural differences may adversely affect communication and how to overcome such difficulties.

Reading Materials

Althen, G., & Bennett, K. (2011). *American ways: A cultural guide to the United States* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Intercultural Press.

Assignments

Supplementary reading: After every class, I will email you suggested reading to complete before the next class. These readings are meant only to deepen your understanding of the lecture and will not be checked or tested in any way, however lecture materials may be tested.

Class Participation: This is a major percentage of your grade meaning it is very important! Attendance is required and especially important for language learning. **I expect students to participate by speaking in class, asking questions, and talking during group discussions.**

Quizzes: Each quiz will have two questions that will cover in-class material.

Midterm Project: Watch one season of an American TV show and write 2 pages answering the following questions: **“What is your opinion of the show? What do you think will happen next season?”**

I recommend using Sohu and watching a few episodes every week. Try to really listen to the English dialogue and not rely on the Chinese subtitles. My favorite shows are: *Raising Hope*, *Vampire Diaries*, and *Orange is the New Black*.

Final Project: Undecided and open to discussion.

Extra Credit: There are several extra credit opportunities in which you can gain valuable experiences and earn more credit for the course.

1. Attend a lecture by a foreign professor (English-speaking) and write 2 pages about your thoughts on his or her lecture. Did you notice any cultural differences between Chinese and foreign presentation styles?
2. Find an English-speaking language partner (online or in person) and write 1 page about your experiences.

Grading Rubric

Class Participation	40
Midterm Project	20
4 Quizzes	10
Final Project	30

Policies and Expectations:

Each unexcused absence will result in 2 points deduction from your final grade. If you happen to miss a class for legitimate reasons, e.g. sickness, accident, please let the teacher know ahead of time. Frequent late arrival or early departure will be counted as absence. Put cell phones on silent and limit computer use to taking notes. **Please only use English during class time.**

Academic Calendar

Week	Topics	Take Notice	Holidays
1			Testing week
2	Informality		Fall Festival
3	Family	Quiz	
4	Politics		National Holiday (Tues-Fri)
5	Politics		National Holiday (Mon)
6	Technology	Quiz	Columbus Day (Mon)
7	Recreation		
8	Education	Midterm Project Due	Halloween (Thurs)
9	Pop Culture		Guy Fawkes Day (Tues)
10	Holidays	Quiz	
11	Globalization		
12	Socialization		Thanksgiving (Thurs) Black Friday (Fri) Hannakuh (Nov 27-Dec 5)
13	Minorities	Quiz	
14	Inequality		
15	Student's Choice <i>Truth of the American Dream & Movies</i>		
16		Final Exam	Christmas (Wed) Kwanzaa (Thurs)