

Macao Polytechnic Institute

School of Languages and Translation

Bachelor of Arts in International Chinese Language Education

(Applicable to Native Speakers of Chinese)

Module Outline

Learning Module	American Society and Culture	Class Code	HIST2105		
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil				
Medium of Instruction	English		Credit	2	
Lecture Hours	25 hrs	Lab/Practice Hours	5 hrs	Total Hours	30 hrs

Description

This learning module is designed to allow students to critically explore major aspects of American society and culture through discussion of key issues, the examination of a variety of media, and cross-cultural activities. The aim of the module is to provoke cross-cultural thinking by not only improving students' understanding of the American people but also reflecting on the similarities and differences between the society and culture of the United States and that of Macau and China. In the process, students will also develop an understanding of American idiomatic speech and recognize dialect differences which show the diversity of the American population.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the learning module, students will be able to:

1. recognize and familiar with basic aspects of the American civilization;
2. understand and make simple analysis on different aspects of American society and government institutions;
3. appreciate rich American traditions and culture, as well as understand American values, and ways of life;
4. use English language skills to talk about modern American society and popular culture as well as the differences between American culture and their own culture(s).

Content

Week 1: Course Introduction and the Geographic Diversity of the US

Week 2: Traditional American Values and Beliefs

Week 3: The Heritage of American Abundance

Week 4: The Frontier History and Heritage of the US

Week 5: The American Business Environment

Week 6: The American Immigrant Experience and the American Dream

Week 7: Race in America

Week 8: Midterm Examination

Week 9: Race and American Culture

Week 10: The American Political Structure

Week 11: Politics and the American People

Week 12: American Family Life

Week 13: American Educational Principles

Week 14: Sports and Leisure

Attendance

Attendance requirements are governed by the “Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of Macao Polytechnic Institute”.

Assessment

This learning module is graded on a 100-point scale, with 100 being the highest possible score and 50 being the passing score.

Item	Description	Percentage
Class Participation	Students need to be on time, prepared to learn, and willing to participate. Missing class or arriving late will affect your overall course grade.	10%
Review Session	Each student will lead one 15-20 minutes review session during the semester. The review session will take place at the beginning of each class period (except midterm exam day) and will review the previous week’s topic. For your session, you should review the key terms (those in bold on the handout) and ideas of the topic. Your session should also cover aspects of the topic that you were surprised by, what you still don’t understand about the topic, etc. Lastly and	20%

Item	Description	Percentage
	perhaps most importantly, your review session should also take this topic in American culture and compare to Chinese or Macau culture, exploring the similarities or differences between the two. You can conduct this review session in any way you choose. You can make a ppt, create a handout, have your classmates answer questions, complete exercises, etc.	
Mid-term	The Midterm Examination will consist of fill-in-the-blank questions, short answer questions, and a longer essay question. More details will follow later in the course.	30%
Final Exam	Final Examination will consist of fill-in-the-blank questions, short answer questions, and a longer essay question. Content for the examination will be limited to topics we have discussed after the midterm. More details will follow later in the course.	40%

Total Percentage: 100%

Cheating Warning: Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. A zero mark will normally be given to that piece of work if a student copies someone else's work or lets someone copy his/her own work.

Teaching Material(s)

Textbook(s)

The reading materials will be provided by the lecture.

Reference book(s)

1. Althen, Gary. *American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States* (3rd edition). Intercultural Press, 2011.
2. Campbell, Neil and Alasdair Kean. *American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture* (4th edition). Routledge: 2016.
3. Datesman, Maryanne and JoAnn Crandall, and Edward N. Kearny. *American Ways: An Introduction to American Culture* (4th edition). Pearson: 2014.

Website(s):

learningenglish.voanews.com