



مركز الاعتماد
وإضمان الجودة
ACCREDITATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE CENTER



The University of Jordan

Accreditation & Quality Assurance Center

Course Syllabus

American Culture

1	Course title	American Culture
2	Course number	3003710
3	Credit hours (theory, practical)	3 hours theory and practice
	Contact hours (theory, practical)	3 hours theory and practice
4	Prerequisites/corequisites	NA
5	Program title	American Studies
6	Program code	
7	Awarding institution	University of Jordan
8	Faculty	Prince Hussein Bin Abdullah II School of International Studies
9	Department	Department of International Relations Diplomacy & Regional Studies
10	Level of course	Masters
11	Year of study and semester (s)	
12	Final Qualification	
13	Other department (s) involved in teaching the course	NA
14	Language of Instruction	English
15	Date of production/revision	March 27, 2017

16. Course Coordinator:

Office numbers, office hours, phone numbers, and email addresses should be listed.

Room 3-4, Sunday and Wednesday 3-5 P.M., : 06-535-5000, ext. 24841, da.abuelghanam@yahoo.com

17. Other instructors:

Office numbers, office hours, phone numbers, and email addresses should be listed.

18. Course Description:

As stated in the approved study plan.

This course examines the development of American culture by drawing upon the perspectives of liberty, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, and aesthetics. Placing special emphasis on the 20th century the course surveys a wide variety of distinctive American cultural forms and traditions. Students explore a range of topics related to “high” culture, popular culture, and folk culture: art and architecture, music, film, television, and the role of the media in American life, food and fashion, sports and leisure, religion, education, the commodification of culture, and regional and ethnic folkways.

Individual					
Social Class	5	“			Newman etal. Ch. 4/Parenti ch. 2
Cultural Diversity	6	“			Newman etal. Ch. 2/Jones ch. 28
Family Life	7	“			Leman etal./ Clemans-Cope etal./ Acs & Nichols
Race	8	“			Emerson ch. 1.5/ Shapiro ch. 2
Midterm Exam	9	“			
Religion	10	“			Wurthnow Intro, ch. 1,2
Education	11	“			Loveless/ McAndrews
Media	12	“			Parenti Section II
Commodificatio n	13	“			Van Elteren/ Buhs
Wrap Up	14	“			
Presentations	15	“			
Final Exam	16	“			

21. Teaching Methods and Assignments:

Development of ILOs is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Use of lecturing and class discussion

Writing – for research paper – outline, first draft, second draft, presentation

22. Evaluation Methods and Course Requirements:

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the ILOs are provided through the following assessment methods and requirements:

Through class discussion – able to determine who prepared, where problems in materials

Assessment of research skills – through writing process as discussed above

23. Course Policies:

A- Attendance policies:

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each session. Legitimate reasons for any absence will be accepted and must be accompanied with documentation.

B- Absences from exams and handing in assignments on time:

C- Health and safety procedures:

D- Honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, misbehavior:

Plagiarism **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!** If it is determined one has plagiarized, loss of all points for TOTAL paper.

E- Grading policy:

The total number of points that can be earned for the semester is **100 points.** The points are distributed as follows:

Midterm Exam	30 points
Final Exam	40 points
Term Paper	20 points
Class Participation	<u>10 points</u>
	100 points
Term Paper	
Outline	5 points
1 st Draft	5 points
2 nd Draft	5 points
Presentation	<u>5 points</u>
	20 points

F- Available university services that support achievement in the course:

24. Required equipment:

25. References:

A- Required book (s), assigned reading and audio-visuals:

Acs, Gregory and Austin Nichols. 2010. *America Insecure: Changes in the Economic Security of American Families*. The Urban Institute.

Buhs, Joshua Blu. 2013. Camping with Bigfoot: Sasquatch and the Varieties of Middle-Class Resistance to Consumer Culture in late Twentieth-Century North America. *The Journal of Popular Culture*. 46:1, pp. 38-58.

Clemans-Cope, Lisa and Cynthia D. Perry, Genevieve M. Kenney, Jennifer E. Pelletier. 2008.

- “Access To and Use of Paid Sick Leave Among Low-Income Families with Children. *Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*. 122; pp. 480-486. 2008.
- Emerson, Michael O. and Christian Smith. 2000. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 1 – Confronting the Black-White Racial Divide
Chapter 5 – Controlling One’s Own Destiny
- Hofstede, G 1997. *Culture and the Organizations: Software of the Mind*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Jones, Maldwyn A. 1995. *The Limits of Liberty: American History 1607-1992*. 2nd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 28 – American Society and Culture 1940-1980.
- Lerman, Robert, Gregory Acs and AnupaBir. December, 2007. “*An Economic Proposal and Selected Proposals For Demonstrations for Strengthening Marriages, Employment, and Family Functioning Outcomes.*” The Center on Labor, Human Services and Population. The Urban Institute. Pp. 4-7.
- Loveless, Tom. February 2011. *How Well Are American Students Learning: With Sections on International Tests, Who’s Winning the Real Race to the Top and NAEP and the Common Core State Standards*. The Brown Center at the Brookings Institute
- McAndrews, Lawrence J. “Choosing Choice: George Bush and Federal Aid to Nonpublic Schools.” *Journal of Higher Education*. Pp. 453-469.
- Metcalf, Peter. 2005. *Anthropology: The Basics*. London & N.Y: Routledge,
Chapter 1 – Encountering Cultural Difference
Chapter 3 – Social Do’s and Don’ts pp. 38-53
Chapter 9 – Culture and the Individual, pp. 163-181
- Newman, Otto and Richard de Zoysa. 1999. *The American Dream in the Information Age*. New York: St. Martin’s Press.
Chapter 2 – The Melting Pot, pp. 31-59.
Chapter 4 – The Underclass and Joblessness, pp. 87-110.
- Parenti, Michael. 1995. *Democracy for the Few*. 6th Edition. New York: St. Martin’s Press.
Chapter 2 - Wealth and Want in the United States. Pp. 7-32.
- Parenti, Michael. 1996. *Dirty Truths: Reflections on Politics, Media, Ideology, Conspiracy, Ethnic Life and Class Power*. San Francisco: City Light Books.
Section II – Media and Culture pp. 97- 151.
- Shapiro, Thomas M. 2004. *The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetrates Inequality*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 2 – The Cost of Being Black and the Advantage of Being White
- Van Elteren, Mel. 2003. “U.S. Cultural Imperialism Today: Only a Chimera?” *SAIS Review*. 23:2, Pp. 169-188.
- Weber, Mark. 2010. *America in Decline: A Society in Denial*. The Institute for Historical

Review. www.ihr.org

Wuthnow, Robert. 2005. *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
Introduction – Confronting Diversity
Chapter 1- A Special People in a Diverse World
Chapter 2 – The New Diversity

B- Recommended books, materials, and media:

26. Additional information:

Each student is expected to have read the assigned reading prior to attending class. THIS IS A SEMINAR STYLE COURSE. Each student must be prepared to participate in class discussion concerning the readings.

Name of Course Coordinator: Dr. Debbie Abuelghanam-Signature: -----

Date: -----

Head of curriculum committee/Department: Dr. Walid Abu Dalbouh- Signature: -----

-Head of Department: Dr. Walid Abu Dalbouh- Signature: -----

Head of curriculum committee/Faculty: ----- Signature: -----

Dean: Prof. Abdullah Nagrash-Signature: -----

Copy to:
Head of Department
Assistant Dean for Quality Assurance
Course File