

Course Name : American Studies							
Course Code	Course Type	Regular Semester	Lecture (hours/week)	Seminar (hours/week)	Lab. (hours/week)	Credits	ECTS
ELL 356	C	Spring	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	5.00
Lecturer		William Karl Martin, PhD					
Assistant							
Course language		English					
Course level		Bachelor					
Description		This is not a survey course in American History; rather, this course will provide students with an integrated and critical knowledge of American Culture and Society. American film reflects and arguably creates the American national identity. The films considered in this course will explore dynamics of modern America.					
Objectives		By the end of this course, students will have: • Improved critical analysis of the dynamics of American culture; • Improved academic writing skills.					
Core Concepts		The course films and lectures will provide students with an integrated and critical knowledge of American culture and society: 1. American philosophical thought; 2. Intercultural relations; 3. Ethnicity, race and religion; 4. Political science and law; 5. War and conflict. 6. Impact of American Rock and Roll on youth, family relations, and gender roles					
Course Outline							
Week	Topic						
1	Course Introduction • Syllabus review; course evaluation and submission • Discussion – student attitudes regarding America						
2	American Philosophical Thought • Big philosophical questions; • Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1840) • American Philosophical Movements: 17th C. – colonization, religious freedom; 18th C. – Great Awakening and the Enlightenment; the Founders – “the pursuit of happiness”, 19th C. – Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Pragmatism; 20th C. – process philosophy;						
3	Intercultural Relations • Student response – intercultural experiences • Critical Thinking – typical “baggage” and perceptual traps (ethnocentrism, stereotyping, and prejudice) • Culture class example: use/value of time – monochronic v. polychronic • Film: Outsourced (2006)						
4	America, Race and Civil Rights • The institution of slavery – a world dynamic • Slavery in America • Civil Rights Movement • Civil Rights Act (1964) and Voting Rights Act (1965) • Film: Mississippi Burning (1988)						
5	America at War • Historical review • George Washington, “Farewell Address” • Cold War – domino theory, interventions, Vietnam, the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan • Film: Platoon (1986)						
6	Freedom of the Press • The United States Constitution: The First Amendment • Daniel Ellsberg and “The Pentagon Papers”						
7	Watergate • Richard Nixon • Security leaks and “enemies’ list” • The “Plumbers” and CREEP • Watergate: break-in, investigative journalism, political cover-up, congressional investigation, Nixon resignation • Film: All the President’s Men (1976)						
8	Midterm						
9	No class						
10	Music in America • Early European foundations • Evolution: indigenous, folk, religious, gospel, jazz, blues, swing • Student response: musical interests						

11	Rock and Roll in American-1 • “Foundations of Rock and Roll” • Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley • National demographics • American cultural impact: family relations, teenage behavior, race relations • Film: BBC, Rock and Roll in American Part 2 (2015)
12	Rock and Roll in American-2 • “Whole Lotta Shakin’” • Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens • American cultural impact: family relations, teenage behavior, race relations • Film: BBC, Rock and Roll in American Part 3 (2015)
13	Rock and Roll in American-3 • “Be My Baby” • American cultural impact: family relations, teenage behavior, race relations, gender relations • Girl groups, corporation backlash – the “Bobbies” • British Invasion • World-wide impact
14	Course Discussion and Reflection .
15	No class
16	Final Exam
Prerequisites	The student must attend the course at a minimum rate of 75%.
Literature	- Films: • It’s a Wonderful Life (1946) • Outsourced (2006) • Mississippi Burning (1988) • Platoon (1986) • All the President’s Men (1976) • Rock and Roll in American (2015) - Articles: • Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (1840) (selections) • PBS News transcript, “Former Ku Klux Klan Member Found Guilty of Manslaughter in 1964 Murders” (2005) • Garland Byrum, “The Impact of the War” (2015) • Hugo Black, “The New York Times Co. v. United States” (June 1971) • Jerry DeMuth, “Freedom Summer Revisited” (1994) • Stephen M. Walt, “Is America Addicted to War?” (2011)
References	• Films: • Best of Enemies (2019) • Spotlight (2015) • The Post (2017)
Course Outcome	
1	. Shënime leksionesh – parashtresa javore
2	. Ese kritike mbi temat e kursit: 1. Mendimi filozofik amerikan; 2. Marrëdhëniet ndërkulturore; 3. Etnia, raca dhe feja; 4. Shkenca politike dhe e drejta; 5. Lufta dhe konflikti. 6. Ndikimi i Rock and Roll-it Amerikan në rininë, marrëdhëniet familjare dhe rolet gjinore

Course Evaluation			
In-term Studies	Quantity	Percentage	
Midterms	1	50	
Quizzes	0	0	
Projects	0	0	
Term Projects	0	0	
Laboratory	0	0	
Class Participation	0	0	
Total in-term evaluation percent			50
Final exam percent			50
Total			100
ECTS Workload (Based on Student Workload)			
Activities	Quantity	Duration (hours)	Total (hours)
Course duration (Including the exam week: 16x Total hours of the course)	16	3	48
Study hours outside the classroom (Preparation, Practice, etc.)	14	6	84
Duties	0	0	0
Midterms	1	0	0
Final Exam	1	1	1
Other	0	0	0
Total Work Load			133
Total Work Load / 25 (hours)			5.32
ECTS			5.00