

History and Culture of the United States 2016/2017

Code: 100191
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OB	2	1
2501902 English and Catalan	OB	2	2
2501907 English and Classics	OB	2	2
2501910 English and Spanish	OB	2	2
2501913 English and French	OB	2	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Nicholas John Edwards

Prerequisites

1) "Història i cultura dels Estats Units d'Amèrica" focuses on socio-cultural analysis and promotes student participation and reflection. In like manner, "història i cultura dels Estats Units d'Amèrica" also revolves around the historical events that have shaped the USA. This being the case, students interested in this subject are strongly recommended to either be familiar with -or to have studied- "història i cultura de les Illes Britàniques" (first course / English Studies). For parallel reasons, this subject is not recommended to USA passport holders who have taken similar subjects in their country of origin.

2) Students who want to take part in this course need a C1 of the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" which, in practical terms, implies that they have to be able to: comprehend a wide variety of long and complex written and audiovisual materials and recognize their implicit meaning; express themselves with fluency and spontaneity; use English flexibly and efficiently for social and professional purposes; produce well-structured texts about complex topics, and demonstrate command of the appropriate cohesive devices that are required in academic contexts.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Brief Description of the Subject

1) History and Culture of the United States provides an introduction to the most relevant issues and events in the history of the USA from the colonial origins of that nation through to the end of the 20th century (9/11).

2) This subject fosters the analysis, debate and interpretation of the cultural production of the USA, a production that is rooted in the main historical events that have shaped the nation as we know it today.

3) The academic preparation that derives from this subject is essential for all remaining US literature subjects within the degree in the sense that the main aim of this subject is to provide students with a solid historical base with which to approach the literary texts of the USA that are studied at a later stage. In like manner, the academic preparation that derives from this subject also establishes a perspective which helps students understand the history, culture and institutions of the country. "History and culture of the USA," in fact, complements "19th Century US Literature," a subject that is taken in the second semester.

4) On successfully completing "History and culture of the United States," students will be able to understand the most relevant events occurred in the USA throughout its history at the same time that they will be able to express an informed opinion on the texts and historical events studied throughout the course (these skills will be developed jointly with 19th century US literature).

Content

Unitat 1: North America before "the Discovery"

Unitat 2: Colonial America: Virginia, Plymouth, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York.

Unitat 3: The Road to Independence

Unitat 4: Independence

Unitat 5: Confederation - Federation: The Constitution; The Bill of Rights; George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson; The Louisiana Purchase; The Lewis & Clark Expedition; The Second War of Independence.

Unitat 6: The West (The Mexican War - Texas - California - Native Americans)

Unitat 7: Slavery, Plantation Life and the Road to the Civil War

Unitat 8: The Civil War; Lincoln, Reconstruction, Segregation, the KKK

Unitat 9: The Beginnings of American Imperialism: the Spanish-American War - Immigration

Unitat 10: World War I - The Roaring 20s - Feminism - The Great Depression

Unitat 11: World War II - The Conservative 50s

Unitat 12: The 60s - The Vietnam War - Women's Lib - The Black Civil Rights Movement

Unitat 13: From the Cold War to the Gulf War

Unitat 14: 9/11 - The War on Terror - Contemporary Society