

Course Title: Introduction to American Culture

Course Overview:

This course introduces Korean ESL students to the cultural, historical, and social developments that shaped the United States. Through lectures, discussions, and multimedia resources, students will explore the Western cultural influences leading to the formation of the U.S., significant historical periods, and the cultural dynamics of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Format:

- **Duration:** 5 Weeks
 - **Sessions:** Two 75-minute classes per week
 - **Total Classes:** 10 (LEC Attendance Policy dictates students must attend 85% of classes in order to pass the course.)
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Week 1: Foundations of American Culture

Class 1: Western Cultural Development

- **Topics:**
 - Overview of Western civilization (Greek and Roman influences)
 - Enlightenment ideas and their impact on American thought
 - The role of religion and philosophy in early American society
- **Activities:**
 - Group discussion on how Western ideas influence modern society
 - Watch a short documentary on Enlightenment thinkers

Class 2: Early American Influences

- **Topics:**
 - Indigenous cultures and their contributions
 - The impact of European colonization
 - Cultural exchanges and conflicts
 - **Activities:**
 - Create a timeline of key events leading to the American Revolution
 - Group activity: Present on different indigenous cultures
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Week 2: Founding to Civil War (1776-1865)

Class 3: The American Revolution and Early Republic

- **Topics:**
 - Causes of the American Revolution
 - Key figures: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin
 - Declaration of Independence and its significance
- **Activities:**
 - Debate on the necessity of the Revolution
 - Analyze excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

Class 4: Civil War and Reconstruction

- **Topics:**
 - Causes of the Civil War: Slavery, states' rights, economic differences
 - Key figures: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass
 - Reconstruction efforts and their outcomes
 - **Activities:**
 - Role-play: Different perspectives on the Civil War
 - Analyze primary sources (speeches, letters)
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Week 3: Post-Civil War to World War II (1866-1945)

Class 5: The Gilded Age and Industrialization

- **Topics:**
 - Rise of industrialization and urbanization
 - Key figures: Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan
 - Impact of industrialization on society and culture
- **Activities:**
 - Group project: Create a presentation on a titan of industry
 - Discuss the social implications of wealth disparity

Class 6: World War I, The Roaring Twenties, and The Great Depression

- **Topics:**
 - America's role in World War I
 - Cultural changes: Jazz Age, Prohibition, women's suffrage
 - The Great Depression and the New Deal
 - **Activities:**
 - Listen to and analyze jazz music
 - Group discussion on cultural shifts in the 1920s and 1930s
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Week 4: Post-War America (1946-2010)

Class 7: The Cold War Era

- **Topics:**
 - Overview of the Cold War: Key events and ideologies
 - Cultural impact: The Space Race, McCarthyism, counterculture
 - Civil Rights Movement: Key figures and events
- **Activities:**
 - Analyze key speeches from Civil Rights leaders
 - Group project on major events of the Cold War

Class 8: Social Change and Technological Advancement (1970-2010)

- **Topics:**
 - Women's rights and LGBTQ+ movements
 - Rise of the technology industry: Silicon Valley and the internet
 - Cultural shifts in the late 20th century: Music, film, and fashion
 - **Activities:**
 - Group discussion on the impact of technology on daily life
 - Create a timeline of significant cultural and technological events
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Week 5: Contemporary America (2010-Present)

Class 9: The 2010s: Politics, Society, and Culture

- **Topics:**
 - Political landscape: Key elections, policies, and movements
 - Social issues: Immigration, climate change, social justice movements
 - Cultural trends: Social media, entertainment, and lifestyle changes
- **Activities:**
 - Debate on contemporary social issues
 - Analyze the impact of social media on culture and politics

Class 10: The 2020s and Future Trends

- **Topics:**
 - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on American society
 - Current political and economic challenges
 - Future trends in technology, culture, and global influence
 - **Activities:**
 - Group discussion on the long-term effects of the pandemic
 - Create a vision board for the future of American culture
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Additional Resources:

- **Readings:** Selections from American history texts, cultural critiques, and primary sources
- **Multimedia:** Documentaries, music, and films representing various eras
- **Assessment:** Participation in discussions, group projects, and presentations

Conclusion:

This revised syllabus provides a comprehensive yet focused exploration of American culture, allowing students to engage deeply with both historical contexts and contemporary issues. By balancing foundational knowledge with current events, students will gain a well-rounded understanding of the United States.