

## English Access Microscholarship Program

Summer 2007



### U.S. Culture

**Instructor:**

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**Class Times & Location:**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 9-10:50 a.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30-10:50 a.m.

Gilkey 104

**Course Description:**

This course is meant to be a brief study and discussion of U.S. culture. We will use the book *American Ways* to focus our attention on a few specific aspects of American culture. Daily, out-of-class reading assignments, as well as cultural journals will form the basis of in-class discussions. In addition, a number of speakers will come and share about their daily lives and work as U.S. citizens.

**Text:**

Datesman, Maryanne Kearney, JoAnn Crandall, and Edward N. Kearny. *American Ways: An Introduction to American Culture*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. White Plains, NY: Longman, 2005.

**Objectives:**

Participants will be able to:

- ◆ Identify and discuss various components of U.S. culture
- ◆ Analyze cultural differences between U.S. culture and their home culture
- ◆ Synthesize culture and best teaching practices in English language teaching

**Tentative Class Schedule:**

Pre-class homework!

- ◆ Read pp. 216-225 in Chapter #10 of *American Ways*.

**Wednesday, 8/1: How Americans Spend Their Leisure Time**

“Take me out to the ball game...”

Softball- learning the rules and playing it! (\*Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes to class today ☺)

**Homework for Thursday:**

- ◆ Read pp. 191-201 in Chapter #9 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Interview an American using the guide questions on p. 233 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Write a journal entry giving your reaction to the interview you conducted and telling about what you observed at the baseball game you attended.

**Thursday, 8/2: Education in the United States**

“School days, school days...”

**Homework for Friday:**

- ◆ Read pp. 52-59 in Chapter #3 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 65 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry reaction to the interview and the information you gathered.

**Friday, 8/3: The American Religious Heritage**

“Do unto others...”

Community service- hearing how it’s done here and how you can be involved!

Homework for Monday:

- ◆ Read pp. 118-125 in Chapter #6 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 131-132 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry reaction to the interview and information you gathered.
- ◆ Write another journal entry reaction to what you have seen and done this weekend. What did you think about the community service project? What have you observed about the lifestyle and cultural values of people in the U.S. this weekend?

**Monday, 8/6: The World of American Business**

“Time is money.”

Homework for Tuesday:

- ◆ Read pp. 142-151 in Chapter #7 of *American Ways*
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 156 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry reaction to the interview and the information you gathered.

**Tuesday, 8/7: Government and Politics in the United States**

“My country ‘tis of thee...”

Patriotism and Politics- hearing about how people participate and have their say in U.S. government

Homework for Wednesday:

- ◆ Read pp. 166-173 in Chapter #8 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 180 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry reaction to the interview and the information you gathered.

**Wednesday, 8/8: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in the United States**

Affirmative Action- how employers try to give everyone in the workplace equal rights

Homework for Thursday:

- ◆ Read pp. 73-78 in Chapter #4 of *American Ways*.
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 85 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry reaction to the interview and the information you gathered.

**Thursday, 8/9: The Frontier Heritage**

“Davy, Davy Crocket, king of the wild frontier...”

Homework for Friday:

- ◆ Read pp. 266-273 in Chapter #12 of *American Ways*
- ◆ Interview an American using the questions on p. 280 as a guide.
- ◆ Write a journal entry in response to the interview and information you gathered.

**Friday, 8/10: American Values at the Crossroads**

Wrap-up discussion of personal observations and experiences