**American Culture Syllabus- OT-ANG-220**

**-INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION/SUPPORT-**

**Instructor:** Olivia Murr

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**Office**: 439

**Student Help Hours:**  Wednesday by Appointment

**-COURSE EXPECTATIONS-**

**Course Description:** In this course, we will closely examine the basics of American society and culture. The emphasis will focus on how American history and culture shapes the mindset and emotions of U.S. citizens. The class will focus on understanding the innerworkings of American society through a number of perspectives: historical, cultural, social, economic, political, etc. Students will also be given time to ask questions about and conduct their own research into a facet of American culture they find interesting.

**Texts Needed**: Datesman, M.K., Crandall, J., Kearny, E. *American Ways (4th Edition): An Introduction to American Culture*. Pearson, 2014

\*All readings will come from this book. Failure to read selected chapters before class will affect your attendance grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is part of the grade for this class. The university allows you to miss three classes, if you miss four you fail for the entire semester. I will take role at the beginning of every class. Plan your day accordingly as so not to miss any classes. Additionally, it is your job as a student to be aware of how many classes you have missed or been late—you will not receive any warnings from me. If there is some emergency, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible. I will not remind you at every class.

Phones and laptops will not be required for this class (even for taking notes). Though I may occasionally let you use a them for special assignments, if I see you using an electronic device in class you will be marked absent. Do notcheck your email or Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc during class. If you are distracted by your electronics during class, you may be asked to leave. If you do not plan to learn that day, there is no reason for you to receive attendance.

**Expectations:** Students will take both a midterm and final exam in this course. All students will also give a presentation on one aspect of American culture they find interesting. Additional participation assignments will include: journaling, discussions, and group activities.

**Evaluation:**

In-class Participation: 10%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Exit Presentation: 30%

**Rules of the class:** Come to class prepared and fully present and do not arrive late. If you must arrive late, come into class as quietly as possible (knocking will only disrupt your fellow students). You will have open discussion in this class and are expected to be civil. Remain calm, polite, and respectful as you interact with your classmates, your instructor, and their ideas. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the course assignment detail and deadlines. Additionally, you should avoid distractions and focus on the lecture. Electronic devices will be put away while in class. If you are not engaging in class, it’s an absence.

You are also expected to conduct yourselves with academic integrity: No copying off of fellow students, cheating on tests, relying on software to complete your work, etc.

**Class Schedule**

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| **Lecture #** | **Subject** | **Readings/Assignments** |
| **Lecture 1** | Class Introduction |  |
| **Lecture 2** | American Beliefs and their History | Chapter 2 pgs. 31-37 |
| **Lecture 3** | American Religious Heritage | Chapter 3 pgs. 54-62 |
| **Lecture 4** | The American Frontier | Chapter 4 pgs. 80-86 |
| **Lecture 5** | The Heritage of Abundance and American Health | Chapter 5 pgs. 102-110 |
| **Lecture 6** | **Midterm Exam** |  |
| **Lecture 7** | American Government | Chapter 7 pgs. 153-164 |
| **Lecture 8** | Demographics and Diversity | Chapter 8 pgs. 180-188 |
| **Lecture 9** | Education in the U.S. | Chapter 9 pgs. 205-217 |
| **Break** | **No Class** |  |
| **Lecture 10** | **No Class** | Research Day |
| **Lecture 11** | American Families and Sports  **Presentation Day I** | Chapter 10 pgs. 232-242  Chapter 11 pgs. 255-280 |
| **Lecture 12** | **Presentation Day II** |  |
| **Lecture 13** | **Final Exam** |  |