

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
Fall 2018

Course Title (Credits)	LL 316 / ASN355 North American Thought and Culture (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	Discipline-related course
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Dr. Katherine E. Bishop
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Office/Ext	MIC 1-212/ext. 3720
Office hours	Tuesdays, 2:15-5:15; also by appointment

Course Description:

From the Course Bulletin: This course introduces American and Canadian culture of the last two centuries, using visual, literary, historical, and other sources to explore major cultural themes.

In this course, we will consider how empire, postcolonialism, and protest are reflected in North American Thought and Culture, from the first contact between European settlers and Native Americans to the continued effects of that contact. We will examine the early colonies of the United States and Canada within the British Empire, then focus on the rise of the United States as an imperial power.

Course Objectives:

Required text: *From the viewpoint of nurturing the ability to communicate with others during interaction with society and the world, to learn about the current status and issues for intercultural communication and about the diversity of foreign languages and the cultures behind them. Also, through the cultures of the countries and regions where English is used, to deepen understanding of expressive ability using English and to master knowledge that will contribute to classes in foreign languages at junior high schools and senior high schools.*

During the semester, students should aim to improve their English skills. Of course reading comprehension should be one area of improvement. To succeed in class, however, students must also speak, write, and listen well. Because we will analyze policy decisions, literature, and other documents, it is also important for students to have good discussion skills. Students should aim to summarize others' points of view, agree or disagree, and give their own reasoned opinions in response.

The course aims to help you to do the following:

- Guide you in asking as well as answering *good* questions.
- Heighten your mastery of communication (writing, listening, presenting)
- Increase your overall proficiency in analysis and discussion.
- Sharpen your understanding of North American thought and culture.
- Level up your ability to create, develop, and test original arguments
 - ___ Summarize complex information accurately
 - ___ Evaluate a theory, hypothesis, or interpretation with evidence
 - ___ Provide alternative explanations for observations
 - ___ Think of additional information that may be necessary to solve a problem
 - ___ Separate relevant from irrelevant information
 - ___ Synthesize information from separate sources to solve a real-world problem
 - ___ Explain how new evidence might change the solution to a real-world problem

In addition, per TC requirements, the course aims to do the following in each class session:

◇ Learning items

[1] Intercultural communication

[2] Intercultural exchange

[3] History, society and culture of countries and regions where English is used

◇ Attainment objectives

1) To understand the diversity of cultures in the world and the current status and issues for intercultural communication.

2) Through exchanges with people with a wide range of cultural backgrounds, to gain an experiential understanding of the diversity of cultures and the significance of intercultural exchange.

3) To understand the basic details of the history, society and cultures of the countries and regions where English is used.

Course Schedule

NOTE: I reserve the right to amend this schedule at any time

Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1 10/2	Introductions	Introductions; What is North America? Defining terms. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
2 10/4 (No class 10/9)		North America Before First Contact Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
3 10/11 Indigenous Peoples' Day	First Contact	The Ecological Impact of Early Contact Indigenous People's Day vs. Columbus Day Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
4 10/16		The Fur Trade Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
5 10/18 (10/20-10/21 MIC Festival)		The People Trade: Slavery Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
6 10/25	Foundational Ideas	Behind North American Imperialism "City on a Hill" Empire of Liberty Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
7 10/30		Manifest Destiny Gast: <i>American Progress</i> (1872) Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>

8 11/1 Monday schedule	Expansion	Cuba, the Philippines Polynesia, Hawai'i Spotlight: <i>Lilo and Stitch</i> Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
9 11/6		Caribbean Islands Spotlight: <i>A Small Place</i> Spotlight: <i>Close reading, media literacy, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
10 11/8		The United Fruit Company <i>Banana Land</i> (film) "Day-O" Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
11 11/13	Visualizing Empire	Propaganda: Art and Currency Trumbull Vanderlyn Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
12 11/15		Propaganda: Political Cartoons An Introduction to Political Cartoons "The White Man's Burden" "Indian Removal" Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
13 11/20		Political Cartoons: Environment, Climate Change, and Indigenous People Workshop Political Cartoons Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
14 11/22 Thanksgiving Day (USA)		US and Canadian Thanksgivings Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
15 11/23 Monday schedule		Confronting Disney Pocahontas and John Smith Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, media literacy, think-pair-share, etc.</i>

		<i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
16 11/27	Modern Myth Making	Introduction to Tall Tales <i>Paul Bunyan</i> – ecological domination Reading Journal, part one DUE Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
17 11/29		Tall Tales, continued <i>Johnny Appleseed</i> – ecological imperialism Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
18 12/4		Spaghetti Westerns (film) Spotlight: <i>Research, media literacy, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
19 12/6		Research Day Spotlight: <i>Close reading, research, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
20 12/11	Presentations	TALL TALE DIORAMA PRESENTATION PAPER DUE
21 12/13		TALL TALE DIORAMA PRESENTATION
22 12/18		Confronting Disney 2: <i>Peter Pan</i> Wain: “What Makes the Red Man Red” Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, media literacy, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
23 12/20		The Mascot Debate Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, media literacy, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
24 1/10		Writing Back: Erdrich: “Dear John Wayne” Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
25 1/15	Resistance	Writing Back Alexie: “Superman and Me” Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i> <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
26 1/17		Protest Art <i>Super Indian</i> Supaman REZilience Spotlight: <i>Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc.</i>

		<i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
27 1/22		Environmental Protests Standing Rock and the DAPL Pipelines, Power and Democracy Spotlight: Close reading, interactive lecture, in-class discussion, think-pair-share, etc. <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
28 1/24	Presentations	POLITICAL CARTOON PRESENTATIONS <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
29 1/29		POLITICAL CARTOON PRESENTATIONS <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
30 1/31	Review	REVIEW Reading Journal, part two DUE <i>Attainment Objectives 1, 2, 3, as noted above</i>
	Final Exam	Final Exam

Required Materials:

Most readings will be available on Moodle or through our library. You are to print out and bring the readings to class.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.):

- You are expected to attend and participate in every class. Do not schedule optional medical appointments or trips during class time.
- Get class notes and complete homework from any class that you missed before the next class.
- Please try not to be late. It is disruptive. Being late twice will count as an absence. Missing more than two classes, even if they are excused, will lead to my recommendation that you drop the course.
- Organize all of your handouts and bring them to class every day.
- If you have a question, please visit Dr. Bishop during her office hours. You may also choose to make an appointment.
- If you have a problem, please come and speak with me. If you have spoken to me and your problem persists, please contact Dean Passos: apassos@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
- If you experience difficulties during the semester, ILA and the Tandai both have counselors available to you. See Masashi Toyama in General Affairs for more information. I am also available to help you to acquire resources.
- If you experience learning difficulties or need accommodation for any reason, make an appointment to meet with a counselor to make a plan. Dr. Bishop will also work with you to create an appropriate plan for accommodation.
- **Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.** Discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origins, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and so forth is prohibited. Be respectful of others.
- As some of our course material is controversial or sensitive and may contain adult content, respectful discussion is especially crucial. I reserve the right to ask anyone to leave at any time.

Academic Honesty:

- It is **essential** that you use your own ideas in this class and submit your own work in this class.
- **Plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else's work as your own, whether it be direct, undocumented quotation of words, phrases or sentences, or undocumented paraphrasing of

original ideas, thoughts or content. Properly citing other authors is important; **do not copy** ideas from other people or books and pass them off as your own.

- Neglecting to acknowledge sources for outside material is a serious, punishable offense and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly the course.

Class Preparation and Review

Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing and doing homework.

As we will meet for three hours a week, you are expected to spend six hours per week preparing and reviewing for this course.

Grades and Grading Standards

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: Below 59

Reading Journal: 20%

Diorama, Presentation, and Analysis Paper: 20%

Political Cartoon and Presentation: 20%

Note-Taking and Review Presentation: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Final Exam: 10%

All assignments should be typed and submitted per the instructions on the assignment sheet. Back up your work and save often. Technology can cause trouble; don't let it hurt your grade.

Dr. Bishop will only accept emailed assignments with prior approval. Late work will be penalized.

Work that is submitted late *may not* be accepted. Failure to submit work (ex: reading journal) may result in failure of the course.

Please bring grade-related concerns **in writing** to Dr. Bishop's office hours or an appointment, including any argument for a higher or lower grade. Emails requesting an appointment to discuss a grade are encouraged though emailed contestations are not.

⌘I retain the right to amend this syllabus as necessary during the course of the semester. ⌘

Methods of Feedback:

Detailed assignment sheets outlining expectations for projects, responses, reflections, presentations, and so on will be given to you in class and will be available on our class website.

In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comments, rubric, etc.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

“Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s)”:

- 1) Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
- 2) The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
- 3) The ability to identify and solve problems
- 4) Advanced communication proficiency in English
- 5) Proficiency in the use of information technology

Below is a rubric outlining course objectives and explanations of what it means to proficiently master those objectives. After reading through the document below, write in what you think it means to exceed expectations and what you think it means to show that you failed to meet expectations in the blanks below. Circle or highlight the sentences that best fit your *current* level of proficiency. In the notes section, jot down goals for yourself.

	Developing	Proficient	Advanced
Critical Thinking through Active Learning (ability to identify and solve problems; information gathering; assessment of credibility)		Able to perform data analysis, gather and assess resources, and express opinions cogently. Able to ask and answer questions beyond comprehension level. Able to create and support an original argument.	
Advanced Communication Proficiency (presentations, social skills, email etiquette)		Able to contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated situation. Able to research, prepare, and communicate ideas and questions to classmates and instructor orally and in writing.	
Literary Skills (Understanding and use of literary terms, ability to comprehend analyze, texts, and engage comprehensively with texts)		Student can use literary terms such as plot, character, setting, prosody, meter. Student can articulate original, if basic, questions and analyses that go beyond comprehension. They can engage creatively with literary forms.	
Global Perspectives (cultural relevancy; awareness of current and historical events and global issues)		Aware of current and historical events and world cultures. Demonstrates ability to learn about and understand cultural relevance of issues presented in texts and discussion.	
English Language Ability (reading, writing, speaking)		Proficient oral and written communication; does not rely only on familiar vocabulary but continues to build lexicon. May make some errors but advances beyond comfort zone, showing growth and effort.	