

Capital University of Economics and Business
Overseas Chinese College
English Course Syllabus
2019- 2020 Academic Year Spring Semester

Course Title:	Western Culture and Customs SOC131
Section & Time & Place:	
Course Credits & Credits Hours:	2/28
Instructor:	Prof. Bethany Sun / Mark Li
Office No:	C-201/205
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Office Hours:	TBA
Learning Center Hours:	TBA
Teaching Materials:	Zhu Yongtao & Wang Lili The Society and Culture of Major English Speaking Countries – An Introduction, Book One ISBN: 978-7-04-031749-7; Book Two ISBN: 978-7-04-031748-0 Beijing: Higher Education Press
Teaching Method:	Teacher's instruction based

Course Description:

This course will focus on improving pre-intermediate student's knowledge of British and American culture. It is designed to give students a broader understanding of western culture and equip them with essential knowledge of historical and current events which shaped the way people live in the West. Classes will be based upon different themes according to the student's interests and practical concerns and situations they may encounter should they choose to study abroad. Where possible comparisons will be drawn between Chinese and other cultures and discussion will be encouraged.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will learn to express themselves with some fluency and coherency in English.
2. Students will improve their presentation skills. Presentation opportunities will be provided throughout the course so the students can confidently speak English in public.

3. This course will also help enrich students' cultural knowledge. As a consequence, students will be able to express themselves more fluently on various topics and share their opinions with others.
4. Students will learn to pronounce English words clearly in order to convey their meaning to a foreign listener so as understood with little effort.
5. Last but not least, the course will provide opportunities for students to get to know each other more and learn to respect others' opinions.

Pre-requisite Course

No

Teaching Methodologies

Presentations, group/individual activities, ask and answer questions, homework and assignments, etc.

Grading Scheme

A+	4.0	97-100
A	4.0	93-96
A-	3.7	90-92
B+	3.3	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.7	80-82
C+	2.3	75-79
C	2.0	70-74
C-	1.7	67-69
D+	1.3	63-66
D	1.0	60-62
F	0.0	59 and below

W: the course is dropped

I: Incomplete

Component	Weight	Description
Final Exam	20%	An open-book final examination will be given based on all of the contents of the class. A minimum of 25% of the exam (5 of the 20%) will consist of questions utilizing the application of critical thinking.

Mid-Term Test	20%	An open-book mid-term test will be given based on all of the contents of the first half of the class. A minimum of 25% of the test (5 of the 20%) will consist of questions utilizing the application of critical thinking.
Homework	15%	Homework will be assigned throughout the term, including but not limited to: vocabulary, research project, and reading assignments.
Quiz, test	15%	Short, weekly quizzes will be given occasionally, covering the previous week's lecture and reading material.
Participation	10%	Students will be asked to participate individually in questions and answers during the semester.
Attendance	10%	Refer to attendance policy listed on the next page.
Presentation	10%	Refer to the handouts.
Total	100%	

Detailed Grade Computation

	Before Midterm	After Midterm
Attendance	5%	5%
Participation	5%	5%
Assignments	5%	10 %
Quizzes	5%	10 %
Presentation		10%
Midterm Exam	20%	
Final Exam		20%
Total	40%	60%

Disciplines

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled at CUEB Overseas Chinese College. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 5 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 5 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 1/3 absences (9 hours) of the total teaching hours (28 hours) of one course will cause an **F** (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. **F** students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence or late

attendance will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade bases on a variety of factors that included, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, and the last but not the least important, frequent visiting your instructors and communicating in English during their office hours.

Policy on Homework, Assignments, Quizzes and Presentation

1. Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. If a student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse is needed.
2. You are recommended to **print** all your assignments.
3. Any assignment will be submitted on time.
4. Late assignment is not accepted.
5. It is mandatory to have presentation, which takes 10% of final grade. Any presentation should be conducted at the end of the semester individually or in group with clear pronunciation, idea, structure and conclusion. Directly downloaded from Internet will be taken as zero.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is **NEVER** tolerated. Any student **ONCE** caught cheating on a quiz, test or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the **whole semester**. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, they must be clearly identified (usually using quotation marks and giving reference).

Instructor's Expectations:

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. **Please speak in English** rather than Chinese in class.
3. No electronic dictionary in class.
4. Students are not allowed to attend class **without textbooks**.
5. Stand up when answering questions.
6. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
7. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
8. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
9. Group work is required in and after class. Cooperation and communication among students are encouraged.
10. A minimum of 25% of the exam will consist of questions utilizing the application of critical thinking.

Notice: All the above will affect your participation score.

Important Dates & Week Plan

Important Dates

Spring Semester, 2020	Feb 23, 2019 --July 12, 2020
Mar. 1	Registration
Mar. 2	Classes Begin
Mar. 6	Last Day to Drop or Add a Course
Apr. 4	Qingming Festival
Apr. 17	Spring Sports
Apr. 27-30	Midterm Test (tentative)
May 1	Labor Day
May 11-15	Summer School Registration
June 15-19	Sophomore and Junior students' Final Exam
June 22-July 12	Sophomore and Junior students' Social Practice, Summer school
June 25	Dragon-Boat Festival
June 27-July 10	Revision and Final Exam Period
July 13	Summer Vacation Begins

Week Plan

WEEK 1	Mar. 5	Ice-breaking & an Introduction
WEEK 2	Mar. 12	A Brief Introduction to the UK
WEEK 3	Mar. 19	The Government of the UK
WEEK 4	Mar. 26	The UK Economy
WEEK 5	April. 2	British Education System
WEEK 6	April. 9	British Literature
WEEK 7	April. 16	Mid-term Test (tentative)
WEEK 8	April. 23	American Beginnings
WEEK 9	April. 30	The Political System in the United States
WEEK 10	May. 7	American Economy
WEEK 11	May. 14	Religion in the United States
WEEK 12	May. 21	American Social Problems
WEEK 13	May. 28	Education in the United States
WEEK 14	June. 4	Presentations
WEEK 15	June. 11	Final Exam

Notice: This syllabus is subject to change or modification throughout the semester. If any change is made, students will be notified during class time.

执笔人：李险峰 / 孙玥

系教学主任审核签名：