

Capital University of Economics and Business

Overseas Chinese College

Course Syllabus

<u>Year and Semester</u>	2023 Spring Semester
<u>Course Name</u>	Western Culture
<u>Course Code</u>	SOC131
<u>Course Type</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Education (Required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Education (Elective) <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Course (Required) <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Course (Elective) <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Disciplinary Course
<u>Course Credits</u>	2
<u>Course Hours</u>	32
<u>Prerequisites</u>	None
<u>Instructor</u>	Prof. Sun Yue (Bethany Sun) & Li Xianfeng (Mark Li)
<u>Contact Information</u>	Office: C201/205 Tel: 83951083/1084 Email: bethanyvic_2006@hotmail.com lixianfeng@cueb.edu.cn
<u>Office Hour</u>	TBA
<u>Learning Centre</u>	TBA
<u>Course Time/Place</u>	TH.13:30-15:05 pm. /A108 Y01

Textbook

Zhu Yongtao & Wang Lili *The Society and Culture of Major English Speaking Countries – An Introduction*, Higher Education Press, Beijing, ISBN: 978-7-04-031749-7 & 978-7-04-031748-0

Reference Book

1. Alan Brinkley *American History: A Survey* ISBN-13: 978-0073385495 McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 13 edition November 26, 2008
2. Paul Addison & Harriet Jones *A Companion to Contemporary Britain 1939-2000* ISBN: 9781405167307 Blackwell Publishers; March 09, 2007
3. Paul Pinto *US History Study Guide: A Targeted & Thematic Approach for the AP & SAT II Tests* ISBN: 9780615801001 Mox Publishing April 11, 2013

Course Description

This course will focus on improving pre-intermediate student's knowledge of British and American society and 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 Outcomes

After learning this course, the students will be able to:

Knowledge:

- ◆ express themselves with some fluency and coherency in English
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ analyze the social, political and cultural phenomena in the above-two countries with critical thinking skills.

Capability

- ◆ construct presentation skills

Mindset

- ◆ demonstrate logical, ethical, and methodical ideas;
- ◆ open the mind to different cultures
- ◆ apply critical thinking in the process of cross-cultural communication.

Teaching Methods

This course contains lectures, class discussions, homework, quizzes, presentation and exams. Textbook content will be introduced first. Then real case and practice questions will be delivered to students as a way to test their understanding of the knowledge. This will require individual or group assignment in or after class.

Grade Criterion

Component	Weight	Description
Final Exam	20%	An open-book final examination will be given based on all of the contents of the class. The exam paper may be composed of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, problems, and preparation of financial statements. Students should rely primarily on homework assignments to give them a sense of what they may see for material on exams.
Mid-Term Test	20%	An open-book midterm test will be given based on all of the contents that have been taught in class.
Homework	15%	Most of the assigned homework is taken from the Exercises in the textbook. Assignments will be collected at the clearly stated date. Late assignments will not be accepted. The graded assignments will be kept by the tutor for reference and won't be returned to students.
Quizzes	15%	There will be at least 2 quizzes during the semester. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. It may also be used as a way to check the attendance. Quizzes will test your knowledge of both concepts and the application of those concepts.
Presentation	10%	The students will be divided into several groups/individual to prepare a

		presentation. Each student is required to be involved in the presentation. The topics can be selected from the textbook or lectures. Each group/individual need to finish a PPT related to the topic which is given and hand in the related resources to the teacher before the presentation.
Participation	10%	Individuals will be asked to participate individually in a question and answer at least 5 times during the semester. The performances should be counted in their participation.
Attendance	10%	Refer to attendance policy listed below
Total	100%	

Detailed Grade Computation

	Before Midterm	After Midterm
Attendance	5%	5%
Participation	5%	5%
Homework	5%	10%
Quizzes	5%	10%
Presentation		10%
Midterm test	20%	
Final exam		20%
Total	40%	60%

Grading Policy

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 90-92	B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 75-79	C 70-74	C- 67-69	D+ 63-66	D 62-60	F 0- 59

Exam Schedule

Midterm Test: TBA

Final Exam: TBA

Assessment of Student Performance

☞ Self-Study and Reading ability Practice

Instructor will give out the chapters or the reference books to read and use class hours to have discussion; students should be able to show a proactive attitude and ability for self-study and reading. Knowledge and oral English will be elements of homework or presentation score.

☞ Homework

Students should finish their homework by themselves. Copying from others will be treated as cheating and the homework scores will be lowered. Students should hand in all assignments on time. Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor (i.e., when the student was ill or had an excused absence). Late assignments without reasonable proof will be reduced in score by 50%.

☞ Attendance

Because the course covers a great deal of material, attending every class session is very important for performing well.

- ♦ Being late for 15 minutes or more is considered an absence.
- ♦ 11 hours or above of unexcused absences will result in the lower level of the final grade by one grade band (e.g. from C – to D +). Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher.
- ♦ Absence which is more than 1/3 of the total teaching hours will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. But students are welcome to continue attending classes.
- ♦ An incomplete grade (I) will be considered in case of medical or family emergencies.

☞ Participation

- ♦ Students should participate in classes actively. Half of participation grade is determined by their presentation in class. They are encouraged to ask questions relevant to the subject and express their own opinions. Every student should respect the ideas, opinions, and questions of their classmates.
- ♦ Students should also use office hours to ask questions or talk with the instructor for good communication and effective learning.
- ♦ Frequent visiting the instructor and chatting in English during office hours is highly recommended.
- ♦ Any misbehavior and non-class related activities in class will result in the lower level of the participation grade, including ringing cell phones.
- ♦ All above behaviors will be solely evaluated by the instructor for scoring.

☞ Textbook

Students must bring the textbook to class.

Topical Course Outline

Week	Date	Topics	Homework
1	Feb. 16	Basic knowledge about the U.S. ● Unit 3: American Beginnings 1. Definition of American 2. A New Land Two Immigration Movements Europe in the 16th. And 17th. Centuries 3. The Colonial period (1607-1776) 4. The American Revolution	Exercises paged 48 to 50
2	Feb. 23	Exam Week	
3	Mar. 2	Exam Week	
4	Mar. 9	● Unit 4: the Political System in the United States 1. The 13 states comprising the New Nation 2. Articles of Confederation 3. Constitution 4. Legislative Branch	Exercises paged 60 - 63
5		● Unit 4: the Political System in the United States	

	Mar. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Executive Branch 6. Judicial Branch 7. Checks and Balances 8. Bill of Rights 9. Political Parties 	
6	Mar. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 5: American Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Industrial Revolution 2. Economic Development Phases in the United States 3. The most important feature of American Economy: Free Enterprise 4. Roots of Affluence 5. the basic information of American Agriculture 	Exercises paged 77 - 80
7	Mar. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 6: Religions in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religion in the United States 2. Protestants in the United States 3. Catholics 4. Three Faiths 5. Religious Diversity 6. American Character of Religion 	Exercises paged 92 – 95
8	April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 8: Education in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Going to School in America Today 2. Education – A Local Matter 3. What an American student learns 4. Higher education 5. Selecting a college or university 	Exercises paged 130 – 132
9	April 13	● Midterm Test	tentative
10	April 20	Introduction to the course Basic knowledge about the U.K. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 1 A Brief Introduction to the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An introduction of UK's flags 2. The Queen's main crowns 3. Listening exercise on the Queen's Coronation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review what have been delivered 2. Preview Unit 2
11	April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 2 A Brief Introduction to the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geographical position of Great Britain 2. Rivers & Lakes 3. Climate 4. Different kingdoms: England, Scotland, Wales & northern Ireland 5. The People in different kingdoms 6. The main problem & solutions in Northern Ireland 	Review what have been delivered Preview Unit 3
12	May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 3 The Monarch Parliament: the House of Lords & the House of Commons 	Review what have been delivered
13	May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 4 The Government of the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cabinet and Ministry 2. The Privy Council 3. Government Department and the Civil Service 	Preview Unit 5
14	May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 5 The UK Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Evolution of the British Economy since 	1. Review what have been delivered

		the War 2. Measures taken by Mrs. Thatcher's government to improve the economy 3. "sick" industry 4. Main problems associated with Britain's iron and steel industry today 5. The reasons behind the decline of Britain's textile industry	2. Preview Unit 7
15	May 25	● Unit 7 British Education System 1. Elementary Education 2. Secondary Education 3. Higher Education 4. Universities	Review what have been delivered
16	June 1	● Final Exam	

Note: Some chapters or sections may leave for self-study, this is the students' duty to learn and understand, and may also be included in the quizzes or exams.

Teacher's Office Hour

- ◆ The instructor's office hour is shown in the front of the office door.
- ◆ Students are suggested to use the instructor's office hour and learning center to ask questions or talk with the instructor once at least per week for good communication and effective learning, which is recorded in the students' participation.
- ◆ The time can be scheduled by instructors or students, or both.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is not tolerated. Any student caught cheating on a quiz; test or exam will be given a mark of zero (0) for the particular work. 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 one uses quotation marks) and the source notes. **If any student is caught cheating on any homework assignment, the highest score the student can earn in that course is a "C".**

Important Dates

Spring Semester, 2023	
Feb. 11-12	Registration
Feb. 13	Classes Begin
Apr. 5	Qing Ming Festival
Apr. 7	Spring Sports
May 1	Labor Day
June 22	Dragon-Boat Festival

Note: This syllabus is tentative and may be changed or modified throughout the semester. All students will be notified and a new syllabus will be given.

Instructor: 李险峰 / 孙玥

Department Head: 张薇

