

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE 010 – AMERICAN CULTURE I**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

First course in American culture for students to practice applied reading, writing, listening and speaking skills gained in the first two levels of the ESL program. Various aspects of American culture such as lifestyles, institutions, values and issues will be studied. **Pass/No Pass only. Non-degree applicable.**

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

- 1) Vocabulary relating to American culture such as American women/men, cities, families, entertainment and industry
- 2) Reading skills to include utilizing vocabulary in context, skimming, scanning, and charts and graphs
- 3) Writing skills including basic paragraphs about personal perceptions of American culture
- 4) Listening and speaking skills including conversations and short presentations using new vocabulary about American cultures and other cultures
- 5) Viewing and analyzing television and movie presentations which explore American culture

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe several aspects of American culture such as lifestyles, institutions, values and current issues in conversations and short presentations.
- 2) Interpret vocabulary related to the above aspects and correctly use it in writing and listening/speaking activities.
- 3) Define vocabulary in context while reading.
- 4) Analyze differences between American culture and other cultures.
- 5) Write simple paragraphs about American culture.

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Participation that illustrates students' ability to describe several aspects of American culture; analyze differences between American culture and other cultures; interpret, define, and apply new vocabulary; and write basic paragraphs.
- 2) Homework assignments that measure students' ability to describe several aspects of American culture; analyze differences between American culture and other cultures; interpret, define, and apply new vocabulary; and write basic paragraphs.
- 3) Quizzes, tests, and written in-class midterm and final exam that measure students' ability to describe several aspects of American culture; interpret, define, and apply new vocabulary; and write basic paragraphs.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

Dictionary

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart classroom

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Pre-reading exercises and discussion will be used before passages are read. Follow-up exercises include comprehension, discovering main ideas, and learning new vocabulary. Whole group, small group or pair discussions on cultural aspects of reading passages.
- 2) In-class reading assignments may be used to illustrate a writing format, to introduce new vocabulary, or as a model for conversations and presentations.
- 3) Students may write journals on assigned or free topics or in response to readings. Journals may be used as a basis for conversations and presentations.
- 4) Write clear sentences and eventually connect those sentences into standard American paragraphs.
- 5) Specific reading, writing and listening/speaking skills are reinforced through use of tapes and videos.
- 6) Work collaboratively to create short oral presentations.

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Homework readings
- 2) Journal writings
- 3) Preparation of presentation

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative example): Murtha, Sheila MacKechnie and O'Connor, Jane Airey. Celebrate the American Way: A Fun ESL Guide to English Language & Culture in the U.S. (English as a Second Language Series) Csm Pap/Co Edition, 2015
- 2) Supplemental: None

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Produce basic English paragraphs explaining general aspects of American society.
- 2) Orally present understandable ideas before peers about general issues in United States culture.