INYO 105: American Cultures
Fall 2021

Course Overview
This course introduces the diversity of U.S. American cultures. Students engage critically and conduct research to discover the United States’ histories, identities, and social justice movements. This course aims to develop self-awareness and intercultural competence though resource analysis and reflection of individual beliefs, values and assumptions. Fulfills Mason Core requirement in Global Understanding.

Course Objectives
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the interconnectedness, parallels, difference, and diversity of U.S. American cultures.
2. Identify, evaluate, and properly cite sources and artifacts appropriate to the field of American Studies.
3. Apply awareness of U.S. American history and contemporary issues in the consideration of individual or collective responsibilities within a global society.

Course Faculty
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:00 PM, and by appointment

University Support and Course Policies
University Policies: The GMU University Catalog is the central resource for academic policies.

Academic Integrity and Ethical Behavior: The integrity of the university community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Refer to the Mason Korea Honor Code for guidelines regarding academic integrity and understand that all assignments in this course undergo SafeAssign, a plagiarism detection tool. Also see Mason’s Code of Ethics.

Disability Accommodations: GMU is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. GMU Disability Services handles the process for registering accommodations.

Diversity and Inclusion: Mason seeks to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities and space that allow individuals to fully engage in the university. Note Mason’s Pledge to Diversity.

Student Privacy & Digital Communications: Governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, student privacy is an essential aspect of this and any course at Mason. All students are required to use their Mason email and university associated accounts for official communication about this course.
Technology: This course is designed for the online environment. Students will need access to a digital device and reliable internet connection with the ability to utilize university platforms including Microsoft 365, Blackboard, and Zoom.

Course Assignment Deadlines & Submissions: A detailed assignment schedule is provided in Blackboard. Assignment submissions will only be accepted through Blackboard. Late assignments incur a 10% grade deduction per day for the assignment. No assignments will be accepted after the examination period.

Course Attendance: Attendance and active participation in this course is essential to learning. Frequent absences be referred to an academic advisor.

Course Materials: Selections of certain works will be supplied to students and remain subject to all rights and restrictions of the publisher. Materials provided for this course and accessed digital resources through the GMU library are to be used solely for academic purposes. Course materials and recordings are not to be distributed, sold, or employed for any commercial purposes.

Course Calendar: This course aligns with the Mason Korea calendar.

Course Readings & Materials
A selection of book chapters, articles, and digital resources are provided in Blackboard and utilized throughout this course. Students do not need to purchase a textbook for this course.

Course Grading Scale
See Blackboard for assignment rubrics and specific grading criteria. The course grading scale is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100  = A+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96   = A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92   = A-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89   = B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86   = B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82   = B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-79   = C</td>
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<tr>
<td>72 and below = F</td>
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Course Assignments
This provides a general overview of assignments throughout the course. See Blackboard for full instructions for each assignment.

Active Learning Journal (10%): Students are expected to be actively engaged in the learning process. This includes contributing through synchronous class activities and asynchronous online exercises. Each lesson in this course invites students to demonstrate active learning and to further explore course concepts.

Culture Profiles (40%): Students will create profiles of some of the U.S. American cultures that are introduced during this course. These profiles articulate deepened understanding of the cultures as well as developing research and critical thinking skills.

Midterm: Digital Timeline Project (30%): Working with assigned topics in a group, students will thread historical events with current context. In doing this, students will practice summarizing materials, making relevant connections, supporting their analysis, and producing visuals.

Final: U.S. American Biographical Essay (20%): For this essay, students will make connections between course materials, new research, and cultural profiles to tell a more in-depth story of the life of a cultural subject. During this process, students will ask critical and clarification questions, identify appropriate sources, and reinforce academic writing.