

ASP Elective and English VI Course Descriptions

Summer Semester 2018

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Elective Courses

American Studies – E: American Values (Ann Glazer)

The goal of this course is to study American culture and society through an analysis of traditional and contemporary American values, social institutions, and means of expression.

In this course, you will read, study, and listen to both famous and not-so-famous Americans sharing what they think is most important in life. This course is based on a popular radio series called *This I Believe*. In this series, Americans shared their thoughts about what was important to them – and what had influenced their daily actions. By studying what these Americans wrote, we will try to understand what Americans value, how that might be different from what Japanese value, and how that helps us understand American culture.

Professor's e-mail: aglazer@willamette.edu

Applied English professor: Ann Glazer

American Studies – F: Public Speaking (Helen Johnson)

The goal of this course is to study American culture and society through an analysis of traditional and contemporary American values, social institutions, and means of expression.

This course is designed to motivate and encourage students to speak confidently and effectively. Students learn how to present speeches in a variety of genres, effectively use voice and visual aids, and lead or participate in discussions. Student activities will include specific guidelines and useful language to prepare, practice and deliver presentations on specific topics in both small groups and to the class. Students will learn how to research a topic and outline information for a presentation. Students will acquire speech communication and listening skills that they can apply immediately.

Professor's e-mail: hjohnson@willamette.edu

Applied English professor: Helen Johnson

American Studies – G: U.S. Geography (Melanie Sosinski)

The goal of this course is to study American culture and society through an analysis of traditional and contemporary American values, social institutions, and means of expression.

In this course you will explore five major regions in the United States: The West, Southwest, Southeast, Midwest, and Northeast. We will learn about the varied physical geography of this country, as well as cultural differences between regions and the history that led to those differences. Our exploration of each place will include the climate, food, people, industries, native animals, and special challenges of the area.

Professor's e-mail: msosinski@willamette.edu

Applied English professor: Melanie Sosinski

American Studies – I: Current Events (MaryJane Danan)

The goal of this course is to study American culture and society through an analysis of traditional and contemporary American values, social institutions, and means of expression.

Do you often wonder what Americans are talking about? The answer is they are often talking about the news! The news is a very popular conversation topic in American culture, even among college students. It is also very important for people to read the news to stay informed about changes in society, and reading the news is an excellent way to learn many kinds of information, and to improve your vocabulary. In this course, we will focus on reading comprehension and sharing opinions through studying and discussing a variety of articles about current events in the news. Our main text will be a weekly newspaper written in simplified English called *News for You*. We will also read a few articles from major American newspapers like *The New York Times*, and we will look at a variety of news sources in English that are available online, some of which have short videos attached. We will follow the news trends, and will sometimes read different articles about the same topic to get more information, or to get a different viewpoint. In addition, students will gain practice in interviewing others about the news, and in starting and having short, meaningful English conversations about topics in the news. Finally, students will have the opportunity to give short presentations to the whole class, too, about a news story of interest to them.

Professor's e-mail: mdanan@willamette.edu
Applied English professor: MaryJane Danan

American Studies – J: All About Oregon (Russell Fauss)

The goal of this course is to study American culture and society through an analysis of traditional and contemporary American values, social institutions, and means of expression.

This area studies course will give students an overview of the forces that have shaped this state and the issues facing it today. Units of the class will cover topics such as geography, environment, history, economy, society and current events. Class assignments will include readings, discussions, research projects and presentations. The class also includes several field trips to relevant locations in the area.

Professor's e-mail: rfauss@willamette.edu
Applied English professor: Russell Fauss

Applied English (Summer and Fall Semesters)

The main focus of Applied English is the development of English language skills. The course is closely coordinated with a specific ASP elective course. Students will use all skills in this course: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Discussions, presentations, listening activities, and reading/writing assignments will focus on the topics of the ASP elective course—but the purpose of the activities is to help the student develop greater oral and written fluency in English. It will also help students to better understand the subject matter being taught in the ASP elective course.
