

# ASP Elective Course Descriptions

## Fall Semester 2016

### TIER-A

#### **American History: Pacific Northwest & Japan** (Christopher Foss)

The course will serve as an introduction to the economic, political, and cultural relationships between the Pacific Northwest (generally Oregon and Washington, but also including some discussion of Alaska, British Columbia, and Idaho) and Japan. Lectures and readings will cover the history of interactions between Japan and the Northwest from the period of initial contact up until the present.

**Professor's e-mail:** [cpfoss@willamette.edu](mailto:cpfoss@willamette.edu)

**Applied English professor: Russell Fauss** [rfauss@willamette.edu](mailto:rfauss@willamette.edu)

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#### **American Society: Introduction to Theater** (Jay Gipson-King)

Live theatre is an important part of cultural expression all over the world. This course provides a general introduction to theatre in the Western tradition, including basic vocabulary, play analysis, elements of production, and theatre architecture. Students will learn about American society by reading and watching two prominent American plays focusing on the theme of family. We will also compare American theatre with the traditional Japanese forms of Kabuki and Noh. Students will read and discuss plays, watch videos in class, and make a field trip to a local performance.

**Professor's e-mail:** [jgipsonk@willamette.edu](mailto:jgipsonk@willamette.edu)

**Applied English professor: Helen Johnson** [hjohnson@willamette.edu](mailto:hjohnson@willamette.edu)

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#### **American Studies – F: American Justice** (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.

During the fall semester, the course will engage students in a cultural detective hunt as they decipher the American justice system in a wide variety of contexts. Students will study in detail, the American classic novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (in both text and movie form), and will be asked to carefully examine the many themes in the text such as coming of age, racial prejudice, class prejudice, childhood and fear of the unknown. Students are also asked to solve the mystery story that runs through the novel. In addition, students will have the opportunity to understand the criminal justice system through a unit on American trial procedure as well as an observation of a jury trial in Salem.

**Professor's e-mail:** [mdanan@willamette.edu](mailto:mdanan@willamette.edu)

**Applied English professor: MaryJane Danan**

## **International Politics: Current Issues**

(Rachael Carella)

This course is designed to introduce students to 21<sup>st</sup> Century global issues. We will focus on the following issues: the US Presidential Election; ISIS and the Middle East; the European Migration Crisis; Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery. We will focus on the issues or events themselves and also how the United States plays a role in those problems. Through this examination, we will better understand how specific American policies have shaped the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Professor's e-mail:** [rcarella@willamette.edu](mailto:rcarella@willamette.edu)

**Applied English professor:** Ann Glazer [aglazer@willamette.edu](mailto:aglazer@willamette.edu)

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## **Rites of Passage in Japan and the United States**

(Russell Fauss and collaborating WU professors)

This course focuses on the events of birth, coming of age, marriage, and death as they are socially construed by way of symbols, rituals, and myths. Initially, attention is directed to theoretical foundations and the constructs of symbol, ritual and myth themselves. Readings are drawn from anthropology, communication studies, linguistics, and sociology. Thereafter, focus turns to each of the events--birth, coming of age, marriage, and death--and the ways that various cultures make them meaningful. The constructs examined earlier in the term are applied to selected case studies from Japan and the United States.

**Professor's e-mail:** [rfauss@willamette.edu](mailto:rfauss@willamette.edu)

**Applied English professor:** Russell Fauss

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## **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. For example: Intercultural Management, American Society, Human Resource Management, American Politics. 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.