

ASP Elective and English VII Course Descriptions

Fall Semester 2018

TIER-B

Elective Courses

American Society and Culture Through Music (John Doan)

This course is designed for students to gain a better understanding of American culture through the survey of the music of America from its earliest sources to the twentieth century touching upon traditions sacred and secular, popular and classical. Special emphasis will be given to music as a reflection of culture. Students will be given opportunities to develop their English language skills by participating in discussions, writing papers, making presentations, and studying the lyric content of the music performed in class.

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

Applied English professor: Ann Glazer aglazer@willamette.edu

American Studies – N : 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 will 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

Applied English professor: MaryJane Danan

Volunteerism – A: Focus on Poverty (Tamara Smith)

In this course, we will think about what it means to be a volunteer and why Americans volunteer. As we look at volunteerism in the U.S, we will focus on volunteering to help the poor. Who are the poor, the hungry, and the homeless? What causes these problems? How do volunteers, government, and non-profits work together to help the poor? To better understand the connection between volunteering and poverty, we will volunteer at an after school program with children who are living in poverty. Additionally students will also read a novel, read short articles, discuss, watch videos, and talk to Americans to understand the issue of poverty in the U.S. more deeply.

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

Applied English professor: Tamara Smith

American Studies – P: Heroes in History, Fiction & Contemporary Culture (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 will examine various types of heroes and the role historical, fictional and contemporary heroes play in shaping American culture. Through the study of films, readings and discovery projects, students will consider the definition and attributes of heroes and consider how the concept of “hero” has changed. Students will learn about the lives of real heroes from historical biographies and observe current trends in the entertainment industry about heroes. Students will study fictional heroes in fantasy books and superhero films and learn how the hero journey pattern is used in telling stories. They will discuss professional athletes and celebrities as role-models and/or heroes and the surrounding controversies.

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

Applied English professor: Helen Johnson

American Studies – O: Intercultural Communication (Christopher Kato)

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.

We live in an increasingly globalized world. Technology enables us to do business just as easily with our neighbors as with a businessperson thousands of miles away from us. Knowing how to navigate cultural differences is an increasingly valuable skill. This course is designed to help you identify how to become a better communicator in cross-cultural situations. You will learn about barriers to successful communication that involve cultural differences. You will also learn more about your own communication style and how it can be developed to facilitate more successful intercultural encounters. The first part of this course is focused on building awareness and a basic understanding of cultural formation, perception, communication, and behavior on the interpersonal level.

The second part of the course will emphasize knowledge, building frameworks from established theories in the field for critical analysis and understanding of cross-cultural engagement. The third phase of the course will focus on building the skills needed to apply their knowledge to address issues of dehumanization, cross-cultural conflict, and social integration including issues involving ethnic, racial, gender, and class differences.

Professor’s e-mail: ckato@willamette.edu

Applied English professor: Christopher Kato

American Studies – S: Short Stories: U.S. & International Literature (TBA)

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 students will read, discuss, and write about a variety of short stories (1-4 pages long) by American and some international writers. Students will also read parts of longer stories and view films or video clips illustrating these stories. They will also study short story forms, writing styles, techniques and vocabulary and write a short 1-2 page short story to share with the class.

Professor’s e-mail: TBA

Applied English professor: TBA

Rites of Passage in Japan and the United States (Russell Fauss)

(Joint course with WU – Admitted by permission only)

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

Applied English professor: Russell Fauss

Topics in Cross-Cultural Studies: Japan, the United States, and the Pacific Rim

(Joint course with WU – Admitted by permission only)

(Akio Iwasaki)

Designed as an introduction in cross-cultural studies of the Pacific Rim with particular focus on the United States and Japan, this course will explore topics like the environment and sustainability, social movements, economic and political development, or race and class in a comparative context. Students will critically explore and debate individual and community values manifested in these topics, and analyze the social, cultural, and historical forces behind those values. Half of the enrolled students in the course will be American Studies Program (ASP) students.

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

Applied English professor: ggunders@willamette.edu

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, American History, and 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.

TIER-B English VII Courses

English VII – TOEIC Preparation & Vocabulary (Section 09) (TBA)

In the TOEIC vocabulary course, we will focus on language skills and test strategies to improve performance on the TOEIC. We will focus on identifying the types of vocabulary used throughout the TOEIC by looking at real world samples of business brochures, office memos, advertisements, forms, and articles. We will learn vocabulary that is important for various types of business communication such as emails, schedules, reservations, or advertisements for different types of businesses such as airlines, apartment rentals, hotels, restaurants, shops, and travel agencies. We will also take some partial practice tests during the semester.

Professor's e-mail: TBA

English VII – TOEIC Preparation & Vocabulary (Section 10) (Melanie Jipping)

In the TOEIC vocabulary course, we will focus on language skills and test strategies to improve performance on the TOEIC. We will focus on identifying the types of vocabulary used throughout the TOEIC by looking at real world samples of business brochures, office memos, advertisements, forms, and articles. We will learn vocabulary that is important for various types of business communication such as emails, schedules, reservations, or advertisements for different types of businesses such as airlines, apartment rentals, hotels, restaurants, shops, and travel agencies. We will also take some partial practice tests during the semester.

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

English VII – Business English (Section 1) (TBA)

Students will focus on improving their listening and speaking in important areas of business communication. The course will cover topics such as greeting visitors, making small talk, describing different kinds of companies, talking about jobs, socializing, interviewing, taking and leaving messages, making appointments, and presenting information in a meeting.

Professor's e-mail: TBA

English VII – Business English (Section 2) (TBA)

Students will focus on improving their listening and speaking in important areas of business communication. The course will cover topics such as greeting visitors, making small talk, describing different kinds of companies, talking about jobs, socializing, interviewing, taking and leaving messages, making appointments, and presenting information in a meeting.

Professor's e-mail: TBA
