COURSE DETAIL

HISTORY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Country
Japan

Host Institution
International Christian University

Program(s)
International Christian University

UCEAP Course Level
Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
English

UCEAP Course Number
65

UCEAP Course Suffix
B

UCEAP Official Title
HISTORY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

UCEAP Transcript Title
HIST AMERICAN LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.00

UCEAP Semester Units

2.70

Course Description

This course introduces the history of American literature after 1865.

In 1900, American sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois wrote that “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.” Du Bois could hardly have anticipated how enduring that color line would be or how complex it would grow, both in the United States and across the world under American empire. As one example, Martin Luther King, Jr., pointed out in 1967 that while under segregation in the U.S. Black and white men could hardly sit on the same bus, the state was happy to sit them side-by-side in warplanes meant to kill Vietnamese people. Evidently, the color line is entwined with lines of class and nation -- who works, who rules -- in ways we must study closely if the twenty-first century is to look different from the twentieth.

This course examines how these lines have been drawn and redrawn in the post-Civil War era and across the “American century,” from Jim Crow to Banana Republics, from Black Power to what the Zapatistas call “the fourth world war.” Along the way, it studies study fiction, film, and poetry from some of the greatest minds in American culture and politics.

The course features works of authors such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Flannery O’Connor, Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, Amiri Baraka, June Jordan, George Romero, Martin Luther King, Jr., Che Guevara, Pablo Neruda, Subcomandante Marcos, and Karen Tei Yamashita.

Students should expect to read 10-25 pages of material per week or more.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
LIT105E

Host Institution Course Title
HISTORY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE II

Host Institution Course Details
https://campus.icu.ac.jp/public/ehandbook/PreviewSyllabus.aspx?regno=21254&year...

Host Institution Campus
International Christian University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Literature

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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