

## COURSE DETAIL

### THE AMERICAN ESSAY: INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STUDIES

**Country**

France

**Host Institution**

University of Bordeaux

**Program(s)**

University of Bordeaux

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History English

**UCEAP Course Number**

114

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

THE AMERICAN ESSAY: INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STUDIES

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

AMERICAN ESSAY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

## **Course Description**

This course introduces the field of California Studies in its plurality, combining elements of literary and film studies, notions and texts from civilization studies, as well as cultural studies. Starting from the question of what constitutes a “Studies” discipline, it then examines specific works and documents – literature, film, essays, and poetry – that provide insight into the specificities of California culture and its representation. Sometimes trivialized, California has a significant place in the spheres of cultural, artistic, and economic development which has had a vast impact on not only American but also Western and global cultures. Californian representations and themes are often a perfect paradox of dominant and subcultural elements, and the course explores several works and aspects of this construction. As such, it is a perfect laboratory through which to ask broader questions about culture and cultural productions. Authors studied range from Richard Henry Dana to Kem Nunn to Frederick Kohner, and films include titles such as the independent film Humboldt County (2008). In keeping with the Puissance du mode minor thematic, not only does the course explore this smaller Studies discipline but it also looks at alternative positions in the examination of the works discussed. Students are also encouraged to explore works or concepts linked to the topic and to relate them to their own fields of emerging specialization. This is a seminar rather than a lecture, and active participation in discussions and various activities is expected.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

1MIAM55

### **Host Institution Course Title**

THE AMERICAN ESSAY: INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STUDIES

### **Host Institution Campus**

UNIVERSITE BORDEAUX MONTAIGNE

**Host Institution Faculty**

UFR LANGUES

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

ANGLAIS

[Print](#)