

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	ENGL326 American Studies (3 credits)
	Department	English Language And Literature
	Program (undergraduate, graduate)	Undergraduate
	Term	Fall, 2026
	Instructor, title	Kamala Jafarova Doctor of Philology, Professor
	E-mail:	kamacafarova_adu@mail.ru
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	As scheduled
	Office hours	Monday – Friday; From 8:30 to 17:00
Prerequisites	ENGL103	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective		
Required textbooks and course materials	1. Gaziyeva M.Y. This is America. Baku, 2006. 2. David Mauk, Alf Tomas Tonnessen & John Oakland. American Civilization: An Introduction. Published August 25, 2021 by Routledge. 3. Howard Temperley & Christopher Bigsby. A New Introduction to American Studies, 2006	
Course description	This course is an introduction to American Studies, exploring questions of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and citizenship in the formation of what we now call the United States. This course is also a survey of American culture and society from Reconstruction to the present. We will examine how industrialization, urbanisation, and the emergence of the United States as a world power shaped modern America. The lives of European Americans, American Indians, African Americans and Asian Americans were transformed by the emergence of modern industrial America. Shaped by the meeting of diverse peoples and cultures, the United States is becoming a multinational society in a global industrial civilisation. Beginning in the early nineteenth century and moving up to the present, we will explore some of the different ways in which people have come to be Americans, whether through immigration, enslavement, or conquest. Paying attention to dynamics of race, ethnicity, gender and class, we will look at some of the terms on which different people have participated as "Americans", and their struggles to achieve equality and citizenship on their own terms. In the process, we will engage in a dialogue about questions of national identity, borders, and the dynamics through which our own identities, cultures, and societies have been created and continue to grow.	
Course objectives	The course aims to: • Develop a comprehensive understanding of the history, culture, society, and political system of the United States. • Examine major historical events and their impact on the development of American society. • Analyze key American political, social, economic, and cultural institutions.	

	• Explore the concepts of American identity, diversity, multiculturalism, and the American Dream. • Understand the experiences and contributions of different ethnic, racial, and social groups in the United States. • Analyze major works and themes in American literature, media, and popular culture. • Develop critical thinking and analytical skills through the study of contemporary issues in American society. • Improve students' ability to discuss and evaluate American social and cultural issues from different perspectives.		
Learning outcomes	By the end of the course, students will be able to: • Demonstrate knowledge of major historical, political, social, economic, and cultural developments in the United States. • Explain the key events and factors that have shaped American society and national identity. • Analyze the diversity of American society in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and social class. • Evaluate the development and significance of the American political and democratic system. • Analyze major concepts such as the American Dream, freedom, equality, individualism, and multiculturalism. • Examine the role of literature, media, popular culture, and other forms of cultural expression in shaping American identity. • Apply critical thinking skills to contemporary social, political, and cultural issues in the United States. • Compare different perspectives on major issues in American society and communicate conclusions effectively in written and oral forms.		
Teaching methods	Interactive seminar		+
	Group discussion		+
	Presentation		+
	Case analysis		+
	Group work		+
	Other		+
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	November	30
	Quizzes	October / December	10
	Class Participation	During the term	5
	Activity	During the term	10
	Final Paper and Presentation		10
	Final Exam	January	35
	Total		100
Assessment	<i>Class participation</i>		

	Active participation is essential for success in this course. Your engagement in daily activities, discussions, analyses and in-class projects will form the basis of participation assessment. By actively contributing and following class guidelines, you can earn up to 5 points toward your final grade. Activity Active engagement in class activities is a fundamental component of the learning process and directly contributes to your academic progress. Class activities are designed to enhance your understanding of course materials through practical application, interactive collaboration, and critical thinking. These activities may include individual and group tasks, case studies and presentations. Your performance will be assessed based on the quality of your contributions, your ability to work effectively with peers, and your commitment to completing assigned tasks. Consistent preparation, respectful communication, and a willingness to share ideas are key expectations. You are also expected and highly encouraged to ask questions, make comments, or disagree with what your fellow students or instructor is saying. Following these rules, you can get 10 points. Quizzes Quizzes are an important component of your semester grade. You will complete two written quizzes during the semester. Successfully completing the quizzes allows you to earn up to 10 points. Final paper and Presentation Students will prepare a final research paper on a selected topic related to American Studies and present their findings in class. The assessment will evaluate the quality of research, understanding of the topic, critical analysis, organization, use of sources, and presentation skills. The Final Paper and Presentation are worth 10 points of the total course grade. All above mentioned makes 35 points maximal. The rest 65 points you can get at midterm and final exams. (30 points at midterm and 35 points at final exam respectively)
Policy	1. English is the working language of this class. It is the only language to be used in the classroom; you are required to use English in all classroom situations. Come to class on time and prepared. 2. Attendance is vital to your success in class. If you are late, or miss more than 5 minutes, you will be marked absent. If you are late for the class (not be in the class when the lesson starts), you will be marked tardy. If you have 2 absent or 4 tardy marks, you will lose 1 point. Class attendance is essential to building fundamental understanding. I expect you to attend class regularly and to realize that failure to do so will definitely affect your grade. Excessive absence will affect your final grade for the course. In addition, you are expected to be in the classroom ready to work at the appointed hour. It is your responsibility to be on time,

	ready and attentive. Please do not come late to class: this interrupts work already in progress and is very rude to your classmates. 3. Late work is not accepted for any reason. Major assignments are not accepted late without penalty. There are no make-up activities. If you miss a class discussion or other graded activity, you will not be able to make it up. 4. Cell phones, laptop computers, I-pads and any other devices are not allowed while class is in session. Students using any of the above mentioned devices during class for a non-academic purpose will receive an absence for the entire class. 5. Show respect and treat your classmates as you want to be treated. Be kind, patient and non-judgmental. AI Policy In the American Studies course, students may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools as a learning aid for brainstorming, exploring historical and cultural topics, generating discussion questions, improving language, and revising their own written work, unless AI use is specifically prohibited for a particular assignment. Students remain responsible for ensuring that their submitted work demonstrates their own knowledge, understanding, and effort. Where required, the use of AI tools must be properly acknowledged or cited. Students must not use AI to generate or complete assignments when its use has been explicitly prohibited by the instructor. Presenting AI-generated content as entirely one's own work may constitute a violation of academic integrity
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Tentative Schedule			
We ek	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments/ Reading
1	Sep 15-18	Introduction to the course. National symbols of the USA. Geographical outline: location, surface features, climate (general information). Discovery of America (the history of discovery and interesting facts).	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
2	Sep 21-25	Native Americans (the formation of the native Indian tribes and their particular features). British colonies in America (the main facts about the first British settlements in the eastern part of North America).	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
3	Sep 28-2	The Boston Tea Party. The War of Independence (the military conflict between Britain and American colonists, its reasons and consequences). Declaration of Independence	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
4	Oct 5-9	The Civil War (the reasons and consequences) . The role of A. Lincoln in the history of the USA.	David Mauk, Alf Tomas Tonnessen & John Oakland. <i>American Civilization: An Introduction</i> .

5	Oct 12-16	Branches of Government. The legislative, executive and judicial powers and its particular role.	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
6	Oct 19-23	Political parties. Democratic and Republican (the history of the formation and the peculiarities of the main political parties of the USA.	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
7	Oct 26-30	President of the USA (the position of the president, his duties and responsibilities). Current president of the USA (self research).	HowardTemperley & Christopher Bigsby. <i>A New Introduction to American Studies</i>
8	Nov 2-6	The American system of education : the main four principles of the formation of the elementary, secondary and higher education.	Gaziyeva M.Y. <i>This is America</i> . Baku, 2006.
9	Nov 9-13	Quiz 1 Midterm Exam	
10	Nov 16-20	Customs and traditions of the USA. Holidays (unique and general)	David Mauk, Alf Tomas Tonnessen & John Oakland. <i>American Civilization: An Introduction.</i>
11	Nov 23-27	Cultural life and life styles in the USA.(Cinema, theatre, music , media, art and religion). Multiculturalism in the USA or cultural diversity of the states.	David Mauk, Alf Tomas Tonnessen & John Oakland. <i>American Civilization: An Introduction.</i>
12	Nov 30-Dec 4	Prominent people of the USA. The most essential figures of the American literature, music, art, cinema, etc	Self-research
13	Dec 7-11	Quiz 2 Relationship between two countries: The USA – Azerbaijan (deplomatic, economical, political, cultural and educational	Self research
14	Dec 14-18	Paper presentations	
15	Dec 21-25	Paper presentations Final Examination	