

“American Ways of Life”
Independent Study Course
Spring 2007

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Office Hours: 8:30-12:30 and 1:30-4:30 M-F

Text: American Ways: A Guide for Foreigners in the United States by Althen, Doran, and Szmania (text will be provided for you)

Objective: The objective of this course is to give the student an understanding of life in America, especially in reference to higher education. Topics explored will be American culture in general, how a college campus reacts to current social issues, what events lead to teaching and working in higher education in America, and the issues facing education in America.

This course will be made up of several different components. They are:

- Seminars with Dr. McDaniel: These seminars will take place once a week for approximately an hour. At these seminars, reading assignments will be discussed, and some time will also be spent talking about the discussions and forums the students attend.
- Journal entries: Each student is expected to keep a journal of their reactions and impressions to what they see, hear, and read in America. The journals may be used in parts of the meetings with Dr. McDaniel. The quality of the thoughts in the journal should be focused on, rather than the number of entries.
- Friday Afternoon Discussions: The Friday Afternoon Discussions are sponsored by the Religion Department at Hendrix College. They are presentations over a variety of topics ranging from science to music to philosophy.
- Tuesday Vocational Talks: These talks are during lunch on Tuesdays, and each features a Hendrix College faculty or staff member speaking about what influenced them to pursue their careers in higher education.
- Thursday Forums: These talks are during lunch on Thursday. Each talk is on a different subject or current event in the nation, state, or community. A presenter speaks to introduce the topic, and then those in attendance are allowed to share their own thoughts if they wish to.

- Meetings with Kelsey Smyth: These meetings will be to discuss the Tuesday Vocational Talks and Thursday Forums. They are for questions about the topics discussed and clarification (if needed) on the fundamentals and background of the topics in American culture.
- Interviews with Educational Authorities: These meetings will be with individuals on campus who are involved with education and educational administration at all levels of the American system, including elementary education, charter schools, and higher education. They will share the reasons those chose to become involved with education as well as important issues facing education in America.
- Visits to the Clinton School for Public Service. These visits will take students to hear speakers at the Clinton School in Little Rock.

Students will be required to go to three Friday Afternoon Discussions, four Tuesday Vocational Talks, five Thursday Forums, and four visits to the Clinton School (transportation provided). These events are open to anyone on campus, so they will be a very good time to interact with students and professors. Students will also be required to attend all of the interviews, since they are being set up as special meetings only for those in this course. Students are also required to attend all seminars with Dr. McDaniel and meetings with Kelsey Smyth. A schedule of all required meetings is included with this syllabus.

Grading: Grades will be assigned by Dr. McDaniel and will be based on participation in the seminars with Dr. McDaniel on Friday afternoons and on the quality (not quantity) of the reflective journals.

Schedule of Meetings				
DATE		TIME	LOCATION	Reading
Tuesday, August 21	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office (Raney Building)	
Thursday, August 23	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 1
Tuesday, August 28	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 2
Thursday, August 30	Pericles Forum	12:10 - 1:00pm	The Burrow	
Thursday, August 30	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 3
Tuesday, September 4	Tuesday Vocation Talk: Jay McDaniel	12:00 - 1:00 pm	Hulen Ballroom	
Tuesday, September 4	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 4
Thursday, September 6	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 5
Friday, September 7	Murphy Event: Poetry Slam: Michael Salinger	8:00 PM	The Burrow	
Tuesday, September 11	Murphy Event: An Evening with Susan Lori-Parks	7:30 PM	Staples Auditorium	
Thursday, September 13	Interview with Provost Entzminger at 2:45	2:45 - 4:00 PM	Provost's Office in Faucett	
Thursday, September 13	Class with Dr. McDaniel	3:15-4:00 pm	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 6
Thursday, September 13	Steel Center Lecture: "Feasting Buddhas, Feeding Ghosts"	2:45-4:00 PM	Mills Center	
Friday, September 14	Friday Afternoon Discussion: Tibetan Buddhism (Dr. Hun Lye)	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Raney Building Lobby	
Tuesday, September 18	Tuesday Vocation Talk: Karen Fannin (musician)	12:00-1:00 PM	Hulen Ballroom	
Tuesday, September 18	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 8
Thursday, September 20	Pericles Forum	12:10 - 1:00 pm		
Thursday, September 20	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 9
Tuesday, September 25	Tuesday Vocation Talk: Mark Shantz (historian)	12:00-1:00 PM	Hulen Ballroom	
Tuesday, September 25	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 10
Thursday, September 27	Pericles Forum	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 11
Thursday, September 27	Steel Center Lecture: Dr. Amos Young		Mills Building	
Tuesday, October 2	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 12
Thursday, October 4	Pericles Forum	12:10 - 1:00 PM		
Thursday, October 4	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 13
Tuesday, October 9	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 14

OCTOBER 11: FALL BREAK; NO CLASSES				
Tuesday, October 16	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 15
Thursday, October 18	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 16
Tuesday, October 23	Tuesday Vocation Talk: Daniel Whelan (political scientist)			
Tuesday, October 23	Class with Dr. McDaniel	3:00-3:30 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 17
Thursday, October 25	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 18
Tuesday, October 30	Interview with President Cloyd	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
Thursday, November 1	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 19
Tuesday, November 6	Tuesday Vocation Talk: Jay Barth (political scientist)			
Tuesday, November 6	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 20
Thursday, November 8	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	Chapter 21
Tuesday, November 13	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
Thursday, November 15	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
Tuesday, November 20	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
NOVEMBER 22: THANKSGIVING BREAK; NO CLASSES				
Tuesday, November 27	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
Thursday, November 29	Class with Dr. McDaniel	2:45-4:00 PM	Dr. McDaniel's Office	
Tuesday, December 4	READING DAY: NO CLASSES			
FINAL EXAMS: DECEMBER 5-12				