



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
M C M X X I I

TITLE OF THE COURSE:	American Civilization
Course code:	AKL4014
Course group:	C
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities
Study program:	English Philology
Level:	<i>Bachelor's</i>
Semester:	<i>Autumn</i>
ECTS credits:	6
Language of instruction	English
Course lecturer/s:	Prof. dr. Ingrida Žindžiuvienė
Short course description:	<p>The course provides theoretical and methodological background for cross-cultural communication. Students analyze specific details of American civilization: they study historical, social and cultural aspects, analyze main factors determining cultural identity and discuss multi-layer aspect of cross-cultural communication. Students analyze different communicative situations and discuss their interpretation. Much attention is paid to critical thinking in describing specific factors that helped to shape American life-style and tradition.</p>
Course content:	<p>The roots of contemporary American culture: the first colonists, relations with the natives, the frontier experience. America as a political experiment. Individualism, freedom and democracy in American culture. The role of ethnic minorities in cultural and political life in the United States. Race and racial problems in the United States. Regionalism in American culture. The impact of the Spanish population on American culture. Traditional American values and beliefs. Immigration and changes in the perception of the 'americaness'. Government and politics in the United States. Political parties in the United States and the structure of political institutions. Education in the United States. The American religious heritage and the role of religion in contemporary society. Art, sports, and leisure time in North American culture. The role of mass media in contemporary American society.</p>



<p>Grading and evaluating student work in class and/or at the final exam:</p>	<p>Midterm exam: 30% of the final grade. Team work, seminars: 20% of the final grade. Final exam: 50% of the final grade.</p>
<p>Required reading and additional study material</p>	<p>Basic material:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mauk, D. and Oakland, J. American Civilization: An Introduction. Routledge, 2000.2. Hartzell, L. L. A Mosaic of America: 1865-1940, vol 2. Kendall/Hunt, 2002.3. MacGregor, J., et al. Government by the People. 5th ed. Pearson, 2004.4. Fiedler, Eckhart, Jansen, Reimer and Mil Norman-Tisch. America in Close-up. Harlow: Longman. http://www.academia.edu/5217809/America_in_close-up, 2006. <p>Supplementary material:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Datesman, M. and Kearny, E. The American Ways: An Introduction to American Culture. Pearson, 1996.2. American Passages. London: W.W. Norton, 2004.3. Crowther, J.(Ed.) Oxford Guide to British and American Culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.4. 2010 Baudrillard, Jean. America. New York: Verso, 2010.
<p>Additional information (if applicable)</p>	