

**Course title:** American Cultural Studies I

**Course code:** SA0812

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** BA

**Year of study:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Semester:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 5

**Name of the lecturer:** Irina Chirica

**Course objective:** The course, held in English (with explanations in Romanian, whenever necessary), is meant to familiarize first-year students with basic notions and data from the domain of American history and culture. The lecturer intends to observe an interactive methodology, which allows students to ask questions and come up with their own comments during lectures.

**Course contents:** The course studies the elements leading to the founding of the United States (the Anglo-Saxon matrix), the "melting pot" character resulting from immigration, and other American cultural characteristics. Special attention will be given to formative moments of American history and the development of regional cultural areas, as well as to the development of American government, education, religion and civic culture. For tests, students shall make use of information acquired during lectures, as well as of data extracted from recommended bibliography.

**Recommended reading:** Chirica, Irina, 1999. *America, The Portrait of a Civilisation*. Iași: Editura Timpul; Kean Alasdair & Neal Campbell, 1998, *American Cultural Studies, An Introduction to American Culture*. New York: Routledge; Kirn Elaine, 1989. *About the USA*. Washington: The Bureau of Cultural Affairs; Musman Richard, 1986. *Background to the USA*. New York: Macmillan; Warren Catherine, 2002. *American Cultural Studies*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

**Teaching methods:** lectures, workshops

**Assessment methods:** homeworks; final (written) test

**Language of instruction:** English