

Myths of the United States
ELE—English Language and Culture
Semester 1

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Grade breakdown:

6 quizzes: 18 points
1 final exam: 30 points
1 presentation: 14 points
14 homeworks: 28 points
Participation: 10 points

Required readings:

Available in Xerox
Bring your copies to EVERY class.

Weekly schedule:

2/27—introduction

**homework: pick up copies of required reading for course and bring it to class

2/28—Myths of U.S. culture

**homework: read James Loewen, Excerpt from *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

3/5—no class

3/6—Quiz #1

discussion of Thanksgiving, James Loewen (pages 1-3)

**homework: finish reading James Loewen, Excerpt from *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

Video 1: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"U.S. culture is..."

3/12—discussion of James Loewen pages 4-6

**homework: read "Superhero Worship" by Virginia Lowell

3/13—discussion of "Superhero Worship"

**homework:

Video 2: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"One example of a Brazilian national or cultural myth is..."

3/19—watch *Captain America*

**homework: read Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart"

3/20— Quiz #2

discussion of Poe

****homework:** read Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour"

Video 3: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"Marriage in the U.S. is..."

3/26—discussion of Chopin

Preparation for presentations

3/27—presentations

****homework:** read pages 1 through 5 of "Sonny's Blues" by James Baldwin

Video 4: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"Being a musician is..."

4/2—Quiz #3

presentations

4/3—presentations

****homework:** read pages 6 through 10 of "Sonny's Blues"

Video 5: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"Black culture is..."

4/9—presentations

4/10—Quiz #4

presentations

****homework:** read pages 11 through 14 of "Sonny's Blues"

Video 6: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"A dominant theme in 'Sonny's Blues' is..."

4/16—Langston Hughes

watch *Looking for Langston*
presentations

4/17—watch *Looking for Langston*

presentations

****homework:** read pages 1 through 3 of "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor

Video 7: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"Sexuality is..."

4/23—discussion of O'Connor

****homework:** finish "A Good Man is Hard to Find"

Video 8: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:
"The difference between my parents and my grandparents is..."

4/24—no class
