

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:**

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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*

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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..."

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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..."

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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..."

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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..."

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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..."

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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..."

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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..."

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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

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4/30—no class

5/1—no class

\*\*homework:

Video 9: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
(free topic)

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5/7—Quiz #5

discussion of O'Conner

5/8—discussion of O'Conner

\*\*homework:

Video 10: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
"The Misfit is..."

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5/14—

\*\*homework: read pages 2 through 4 of "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" by Gloria Anzaldua

5/15—discussion of Anzaldua

\*\*homework: read pages 5 through 8 of "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"

Video 11: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
"Language is..."

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5/21—discussion of Anzaldua

\*\*finish "How to Tame a Wild tongue"

5/22—Quiz #6

Watch *West Side Story*

\*\*homework:

Video 12: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
"Immigration to Brazil is..."

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5/28—discussion of *West Side Story*

5/29—finish *West Side Story*

\*\*homework:

Video 13: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
"The university is..."

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6/4—no class

6/5—no class

\*\*homework:

Video 14: Make a 2-minute video of yourself speaking in English about the following topic:  
"When I speak English, I..."

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6/11—exam preparation

6/12—exam preparation

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6/18—exams (written)

6/19—exams (oral)

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6/25—exams (oral)

6/26—exams (oral)

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7/2—(reserve)

7/3—(reserve)

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7/9—(reserve)

7/10—(reserve)