

ESLI 063 Exploring U.S. Cultures

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- January 24 – February 18 (Monday – Friday)
- 6:00 am – 7:15 am CST (please check your local time zone)
- Conversation meeting times will be outside of class (optional, not required)

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

Classes are held synchronously online using Zoom. Students must have a laptop with a web camera, a microphone, and a reliable internet connection. Headsets are recommended for better audio connection.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Cultivating awareness of United States culture(s), with an emphasis on investigation of Wisconsin and the Midwestern United States. Building discussion and critical thinking skills through topic-based lessons, guest speakers, conversation partner interactions, and “virtual” site visits. (25 class hours, 1 credit hour)

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify salient aspects of U.S. culture(s)
2. Discuss elements of their own culture and U.S. culture(s)
3. Reflect on how expectations/preconceptions of U.S. culture compare to personal experience

OUTLINE:

- A. Cultural Awareness (Objectives 1, 2, 3)
 1. Definition of culture
 2. Cultural topics
 - a. Food & drink
 - b. Rules & law enforcement
 - c. Social/recreational activities
 - d. University student life
 - e. Family life
 - f. Arts (artwork, handcrafts, theater, music, etc.)
 - g. Holidays & ceremonies
 - h. Politeness & respect
 - i. Beliefs & values
 - j. Communication styles
 - k. Other topics as identified by instructor
- B. Discussion Skills (Objective 2)
 1. Share opinions of like/dislike
 2. Express agreement/disagreement

3. Give verbal and nonverbal feedback to other speakers
4. Ask questions to initiate discussion or ask for more information
5. Exhibit politeness and respect

C. Critical Thinking Skills (Objectives 2, 3)

1. Make connections between ideas
2. Compare and contrast information
3. Analyze cause and effect relationships
4. Reflect on experiences
5. Make predictions

EVALUATION:

30%--Attendance
 50%--Participation
 20%--Final reflection

GRADES: Students must earn 76% C or higher to pass the course and receive the course certificate.

A 97-100%	C 76-78%
A- 92-96%	C- 73-75%
B+ 88-91%	D+ 70-72%
B 86-87%	D 67-69%
B- 82-85%	D- 61-66%
C+79-81%	F 60% or less

SAMPLE CALENDAR

Week 1:

Monday: Introduction to the Midwest
 Tuesday: Communication Styles
 Wednesday: Small Talk & Politeness
 Thursday: History of the U.S. & Midwest
 Friday: Diversity of the U.S. & Immigration

Week 2:

Monday: First Nations in the Midwest
 Tuesday: Regional Landmarks
 Wednesday: Cultural Dimensions
 Thursday: Lifestyles & Leisure Time
 Friday: UW-Stout History & Student Life

Week 3:

Monday: Holidays & Celebrations
Tuesday: Drinking Culture
Wednesday: Midwest Food Etiquette
Thursday: Music & Dance
Friday: Arts in the Midwest

Week 4:

Monday: Love & Relationships
Tuesday: Family & the Home
Wednesday: Accents and Dialects
Thursday: Review & Midwestern Goodbye
Friday: Final Reflections