Online American English and Culture Program (OAECP)

Program Description

The Online American English and Culture Program (OAECP) is an intensive, 4 week online program provided by the Michigan State University English Language Center (ELC). The program is taught both synchronously (live) and asynchronously (independently and self-paced). Students study English through a content-based approach, focusing on U.S. history, culture, and current events. Students also work on oral fluency in English. The combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction will be equivalent to approximately 15 hours per week. Students will be emailed program certificates upon completion of all required assignments.

Course Timing - Spring 2021

OAECP dates in May, June, July and August have not yet been finalized.

All synchronous (live) instruction will take place between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. EST or 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. EST, Monday to Friday.

Course Goals & Outcomes:

In OAECP, we explore U.S. history and connect historical patterns to current U.S. culture and news. However, this is still an English course! The language skills you will practice and improve are listed below. In successfully completing this course, you will…

work with authentic materials in English
- · **find** accurate information online in English and share it with others
- · **identify** key information in spoken or written texts
- · **restate** main ideas of authentic readings and videos in your own words

take notes and use them effectively
- · **identify** key ideas in a lecture or video and record them in your notes
- · **organize** your notes to show information relationships
- · **take quick notes** using abbreviations, symbols, and key words/phrases
- · **mark** confusing or missing parts in your notes
- · **use** information in your notes to complete assignments and quizzes

connect information across sources
- · **make connections** between pieces of information in course readings, videos, etc.
- · **connect** that information **to larger** themes and questions

speak more fluently in English
- · use natural **English stress patterns**
- · pronounce stressed **vowels** clearly
- · practice **linking and blending** between words

give a presentation on Zoom
- · **address the assigned questions** clearly and completely
- · **handle the tech** capably (Zoom, PPT, etc.)
- · **use visuals** that support your ideas
- · **speak** fluently and confidently
- · **interact** well with your audience

Required Technology

- ● You will need access to a computer with a reliable internet connection that can support streaming video.
- ● You will be given access to MSU's online course management system: D2L.
- ● All texts and materials will be free of cost and linked within the course on D2L.
- ● We will use Zoom for synchronous class meetings.

Course Structure

You will attend two classes and one conversation hour as part of this course:

(1) U.S. History and Society: In this class, you will learn about the founding and structure of the U.S. government and then explore the history of our demographic diversity. Before each 90-minute class you'll be asked to do a reading or watch a video and take notes in preparation for in-class discussions and tasks.

*Changes may be made to the curriculum to align course content with contemporary issues.

(2) Current Events and Oral Skills: In this class, you and your classmates will choose current news stories to explore and discuss. You'll have a chance to lead discussions and ask questions of your instructor to better understand news about the U.S. You will be graded on your ability to summarize, respond to, and discuss the news items. In this course, you'll also practice your oral English skills in order to speak more fluently and confidently. (Oral practice lessons are meant to be supportive and developmental - so you will not be graded on these.) Each class meeting will last 60-90 minutes.

Conversation Hours: This course also includes one conversation hour per week where you'll have a chance to interact more informally with American speakers.

Sample Course Calendar

Each day, you will have one synchronous (live) meeting with your instructor and classmates.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			Orientation	Log in to D2L. Read course docs.
History Day 1: Course overview	**CE/Oral Day 1:** Course overview Model news report	**Conversation hour**	**History Day 2:** Revolution!	**CE/Oral Day 2:** Model news report Color vowels
History Day 3: *The Constitution* - powers - elections	**CE/Oral Day 3:** News reports Stress & rhythm	**Conversation hour**	**History Day 4:** *The Bill of Rights* and citizen freedoms	**CE/Oral Day 4:** News reports Linking & blending
History Day 5 : Indigenous Americans	**CE/Oral Day 5:** News reports Thought groups Oral skills review	**Conversation hour**	**History Day 6 :** Immigrant ancestry	**History Day 7:** African Americans
History Day 8: Diversity in the US - "Tell Me Who You Are"	**CE/Oral Day 6:** Presentation workshop day	**Conversation hour** (practice presentations)	**CE/Oral Day 7:** Presentations	**Course Evaluations and Wrap Up**

Grading

Tasks	Weight
History class assignments	**40%** Includes graded homework and classwork (note-taking, open-notes quizzes, written paragraphs, participation in discussions, etc.) See a detailed grading rubric at the end of this syllabus.
Current events reports	**40%** Includes selecting and posting current news articles, summarizing, responding, and discussing with classmates. Each student must complete 2 news reports. See a detailed grading rubric at the end of this syllabus.
Oral skills practice	**0%** Oral skills practice tasks (color vowels, stress & rhythm, linking & blending) are meant to be supportive and developmental. These activities will not be graded.
Final Presentation	**20%** At the end of the course, you will give a 4-6 minute presentation over Zoom to answer the following questions: ・*How has your image of the USA changed in the last few weeks?* ・*How has this course helped you reimagine the people and culture of the USA?* ・*What new knowledge do you want to share with others?* See a detailed grading rubric at the end of this syllabus.

The table below shows the relationships between grades, percentages, and performance.

Grade	Percentage	Performance Description
4.0	90 to 100%	Excellent Work
3.5	85 to 89%	Nearly Excellent Work
3.0	80 to 84%	Very Good Work
2.5	75 to 79%	Good work
2.0	70 to 74%	Meets minimum expectations
1.5	65 to 69%	Doesn't meet minimum expectations
1.0	60 to 64%	Very poor work
0.0	0 to 59%	Did not complete work

Attendance, Participation, and Late Work Policy

You will be doing work in preparation for each class meeting, and participating in tasks during each class meeting. Though there are no points just for attendance, if you miss a class, you will miss any work done during that time (discussions, quizzes, group tasks, etc.). **Late work will not be accepted or graded unless you have made arrangements beforehand with your instructor.** Please plan your time well in order to attend classes and keep up with your assignments.

Academic Honesty Policy

All work you submit for this class should be your own. Do not copy text from the internet or ask friends to do your work for you. Do not use online translators or paid services for help with your work. If you need help with an assignment, please contact your instructor, who will be happy to help you! If you turn in work that is plagiarized (copied from another source) you will receive zero credit. Only students who complete the course honestly will receive program completion certificates.

Communication Expectations

Because this is an online course, your instructors will communicate with you primarily through D2L and email. To be successful in this course, you must log on to D2L each day. Please contact your instructor with any questions or concerns using MSU email. The course is very short, so don't wait if you need help!

Netiquette:
When communicating online in this course, please be conscientious about your language. Share your ideas and respond to the ideas of others in an open and supportive manner.

- Do not use offensive language (swearing, insults, etc.)
- Do not type in ALL CAPS. This seems like angry shouting.
- Emojis, emoticons, and gifs can be helpful to convey your feelings in online discussions, but do not overuse them.
- Do not correct the writing style or grammar of classmates' posts. Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write. Instead, respond to their ideas.
- Always reread and proofread before you push the "Send" or "Submit" button.
- Engage respectfully with others who do not agree with you.

Classroom Civility Statement

Students come to class with a wide range of skills and experience. It is our goal to create a welcoming, inclusive, and beneficial learning environment for **all** students. This course may require you to actively examine your own assumptions, beliefs, and blindspots. You may be asked to discuss controversial topics. Please be respectful and supportive of each other as you are learning.