

University of Azuay
Oral and Written Expression
March 2005- June 2005

International Studies
Instructor: Jeff McClelland
4 hours per week

Course Description

This course is designed to develop the skills necessary to be successful in an academic environment, and eventually, in the work place. The focus will be on historical events in the U.S. from the end of WWII to the end of the Cold War. The course will explore the political and cultural issues arising from the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, the youth movements and rebellion of the 60's and the Latin-American experience in the US. These issues will be introduced with short in-class readings and mini-lectures and longer assigned readings accompanied with comprehension and vocabulary-building exercises. The students will be expected to discuss these readings in paired, small and large groups. They will also be given short writing assignments based on the readings and discussions. These writing assignments will focus on developing effective sentence and paragraph construction. Students will also be expected to present at least one oral presentation.

Course objective

To develop the skills necessary for a liberal arts education such as critical reading and thinking, analysis and interpretation, engaging in discussions, and formulating and expressing personal opinions both orally and in written form.

Coursework

- Short in-class readings
- Longer assigned readings accompanied with comprehension and vocabulary-building exercises
- Discussions in paired, small and large groups
- Short writing assignments based on the readings and discussions focusing on developing effective sentence and paragraph construction
- Class debates
- One oral presentation

Course Topics

- Week 1 Capitalism and Communism
- Week 2 WW II and its aftermath
- Week 3 The Two Superpowers
- Week 4 The U.N.
- Week 5 McCarthyism and the Blacklists
- Week 6 and 7 The Civil Rights Movement
- Week 8 Black Separatism
- Week 9 US policy in Latin America
- Week 10 The Vietnam War
- Week 11 Student Revolt and the Hippies
- Week 12 The Latino Experience
- Week 13 The Native-American Experience
- Week 14 The End of the Cold War
- Week 15 Finals

Class materials

The readings are drawn from history books, literature, poetry, news journals, personal letters, political institutions, and the internet. Examples include:

- Selected passages from *America Past and Present* by Katherine Lancelot-Harrington
- Selected passages from *A People's History of the US* by Howard Zinn
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- The *Civil Rights Movement* by Nigel Ritchie
- *Strange Fruit* sung by Billie Holiday
- *I have a Dream Speech* by Martin Luther King
- *How to Tame a Wild Tongue* By Gloria Anzaludua
- *On Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- The film *Spanglish*

Evaluation

Class Discussion	30%
Writing Assignments	30%
Mid-term and final exams	30%
Oral presentations	10%