

4年生用

4年ゼミ コースアウトライン

Historical Foundations of US Cultural Identity II

教員名: **Jason WALTERS** (ジェイソン ウォルターズ)

授業概要

This seminar continues the work from the Year 3 course by looking at how key American cultural ideas—such as “exceptionalism,” “states’ rights,” and “the American Dream”—appear in popular art and media. We will explore how these ideas are expressed, questioned, and reimagined through literature, film, television, music, and digital media from the colonial era to today.

Students will study how popular culture has helped shape the image of the United States and how different groups have challenged and expanded traditional views of “American identity.” Topics will include national myths, Hollywood and the American Dream, protest music, television’s role in shaping public opinion, and the influence of global media.

An important part of this course will involve connecting the past with the present. Students will follow current events in the United States and research how they relate to earlier cultural and historical ideas. By the end of the seminar, students will better understand how American popular culture continues to reflect and influence social and political life.

*授業の形式 **How the class is conducted**

Each week, students will be required to complete assigned readings or prepare discussion materials; these will form the basis of in-class activities. These readings will be critically reviewed in small group discussions where students will share insights on course themes. This year, students will be responsible for short peer-teaching activities that will require out-of-class research on media and news topics.

The course is structured into three thematic units per semester. A comprehensive three-unit exam will be administered in Week 12 of both semesters. Additionally, students will complete a final project consisting of a short essay accompanying an in-class presentation.

課題・成績評価基準 **Requirements and Assessment**

To succeed in this course, students are expected to:

- Work independently and manage their own learning
- Attend class prepared to meaningfully discuss assigned topics
- Maintain strong organizational skills, both in managing time and course materials

Grades will be based on the following factors:

- 1) Weekly in-class group work 20%
- 2) Short reading quizzes 10%
- 3) Peer teaching activities 20%
- 3) Term Exam 20%
- 4) Final Project 30%

***その他 Others**

There is no textbook for this class.