

Bachelor Program in American Studies

Structure, Contents, Learning Outcomes

The programme involves 240 ECTS (6000 hrs.), where the major program component involves 130 ECTS, among them:

- Core courses – 80 ECTS (16 academic courses, each is 5 ECTS).
- Obligatory research component – Bachelor Thesis, 10 ECTS.
- Elective academic courses – 40 ECTS (20 academic courses, each – 5 ECTS, out of which student elects 8); out of the elective languages essential Georgian for foreign students is obligatory; The rest of the 110 ECTS includes:
 - 20 ECTS – Foreign Language;
 - 5 ECTS – Information Technologies;
 - 5 ECTS – Academic Writing;
 - 20 ECTS – Free Credits;
 - 60 ECTS – Minor Program, or Free Credits.

Student chooses one out of two minor programs: 1) Translation 2) American Pop Culture and Public Relations (PR)

Title of the Course	ECTS	Course Description
Obligatory component		
English Language Speaking and Listening 1 (advanced level)	5	The course assists students to develop skills of expressing their opinions and ideas in an organized and coherent manner. It also fosters them to develop skills of effective communication, such as eye contact, body language, voice, etc.
American Multicultural Studies I	5	The objectives of the course is to create a general picture about the U.S. and American people through considering issues, like: creation of the American nation, immigration, “American Dream”, geography, religion, American government, economy, law-enforcement agencies, transportation, environment.
American Multicultural Studies II	5	The objectives of the course are twofold: first to study the American cultural life through the lens of multicultural students of the American Studies Department of IBSU; integratively investigate the issues of American society, history, economics, politics, media, culture through an interdisciplinary course; second, to consider the same issues in their culture and find the similarities and differences.
American Geography	5	The course aims to give students basic knowledge about American Geography, of its climate, soil, green cover and wildlife. The course also gives information about human influence on environment.
Culture and Society of the U.S.	5	The course has two main goals; the first is to introduce students to a twenty-century snapshot of life in the Unites States. The second is to increase students' knowledge of the most wide-

		spread American custom of all - the custom of communicating in English.
Advanced English Grammar 1	5	course is aimed for upper-intermediate students and the main objective is to develop their language skills to advanced level. The course aims to improve learners' language competence in English grammar.
American Politics	5	The purpose of the course is to give basic knowledge in the US politics. It will help them to understand better the country's political system by providing chapters on: American constitutional system, core political institutions, elections, media, interest groups and political movements, political parties, US domestic policy, and other issues.
Research and Study Skills	5	Aim of the course is to give students basic theoretical knowledge in scientific research methods and provide them with thesis writing skills. The study course will acquaint them with various types of researches and strategies of investigation.
Women's Studies in the U.S.	5	This is the only American Women's studies English course, first established in Georgia at IBSU in 2002 to introduce a broad range of American women's experiences to our students in terms of class, race, culture, disability, age, etc. The inclusion of the course "Women's Studies in the US" in the curriculum of the American Studies opened new chance for students to concentrate on women's equality issues through comparative cross-cultural analysis between Georgian and American women's identities, values, perceptions; their roles in family and relations with family members.
American Landmarks I	5	This course provides the students with overview of American cultural heritage, the main aspects of American culture, significant social figures and movements, who formed America, and created it in its present form.
Academic Writing	5	The purpose of the Academic Writing course is to introduce students to the importance of writing in the university work and develop their critical reading and thinking, argumentative writing, library research, and documentation of sources in an academic setting so that they can successfully participate in that work.
Advanced Composition I	5	Students practice sentence construction, paragraph construction, and the organization of ideas in different types of compositions by explaining and identifying the steps involved in the writing process
Advanced English Reading I	5	This is an advanced reading course for the student who is reading at or above the college (university) level. It is designed to develop the student's thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to apply critical and efficient reading and inferential thinking skills to college texts and personal reading.
Introduction into American Literature	5	The goal of the course is to provide knowledge about American literature (trends, authors, works) and culture viewed in it, to form the ability to analyze a literary work, to discuss literature and culture issues, to have students acquainted with American values, to teach them to compare various cultural values.

Introduction to American Studies	5	The goal of the course is to acquire basic methodology and analyze the issues in the study of American geography, culture, society, values, and varieties of American thought, as well as gain a broad introductory overview of areas and approaches to American studies, to prepare them for further studies in the area of American studies.
American History I	5	The course examines the major turning points in American history beginning with the events leading up to the American Revolution, the origins of American constitution, reform movements, etc.
American History II	5	The purpose of the course is to encourage students to gain a new knowledge and deeper awareness of the main features of American history. The course will be focused on American culture, politics, and society. The course has been constructed chronologically.
Information Technologies	5	The course aims to teach students computer technologies and Microsoft Office Programs, so they can fulfill various tasks, data analysis, present projects or results according to standards of presentations.
Bachelor Thesis	10	Bachelor Thesis is regarded as the final stage of the BA studies. Purpose of writing BA thesis is proving student's ability of researching, developing and critically examining the issue in the field of English philology under supervision.
Elective component		
American Short Story	5	Getting acquainted with some works of American short story. After completion of this course students are expected to know some issues of history of development of American drama and short story, their peculiar features (compared to other literatures), and be able to analyze a literary work (play, short story).
Advanced English Reading II	5	This is an advanced reading course for the student who is reading at or above the college (university) level. It is designed to develop the student's thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills
American Media	5	The goal of the course is to look at the world of mass communication & its relationship to American Culture; to present the fundamentals of mass communication & also to show the importance & relevance of the mass media in the society, as Americans have rapidly moved & are moving into information age.
American Business Law	5	The course aims to give the student, a thorough practical knowledge of the U.S. business environment; the main features of the systems, principles and institutions.
American Women's History	5	Through this course the students learn chronologically what has changed the lives of American Women and families so dramatically throughout very significant historical periods (colonial period -1960s).
American Presidents and U.S. Foreign Policy	5	The course provides students with the knowledge of U.S. domestic and foreign policy, starting from the 20 th century till present. The course covers following issues: US public policy and its economic policy management, administration of social issues, health care, foreign policy, global policy, war on terror, Col War problems, US presidents' foreign policy doctrines.

American Institutions	5	The goal of the course is to create contemporary portrait of the United States, both with its virtues and shortcomings; to provide students with contemporary, fresh information on basic concept of the development of the country; traditions and strategies of the American institutions; work out critical thinking among students and stimulate them to get actively motivated in discussions.
English Language Speaking and Listening 2	5	The aim of the course is to develop self-confidence in students while making a public speech in front of a group The course assists students to develop skills of expressing their opinions and ideas in an organized and coherent manner. It also fosters them to develop skills of effective communication, such as eye contact, body language, voice, etc.
Advanced Composition II	5	The goal of Advanced Composition II is to help students become competent, independent writers by engaging them in the process of writing and by encouraging them to explore and organize their ideas in writing.
American Landmarks II	5	This course provides the students with overview of American cultural heritage. At the end of the course, the student will master the main aspects of American culture, also will get acquainted significant social figures and movements, who formed America, and created it in its present form.
American Novel	5	The purpose of this course is to develop student's skill to read, understand, comprehend, and analyze extended literature pieces (novel), which is written in English in original.
Literary Terms and Currents	5	The student has the ability to analyze a given literary text from the angle of existing terminology and the associate literary trend/current. The course will enable the student understand literature (fiction) deeply, and deduct cultural information from it.
American Music and Cinema	5	The Course "American Music and Cinema" sets its purpose the indication of periods of American musical art from its origin to present, and illustration of its influence over American society.
NATO	5	The course provides students with great opportunities to develop their abilities of analyzing the concept of political situation and make appropriate decisions concerning certain political cases.
Hollywood	5	The objective of the course is to use the films to illuminate the central themes of twentieth century American cultural history; through the history of American film to trace broader changes in late nineteenth and twentieth century popular culture;
Survey of world literature	5	On the completion of the course the students should have a general idea (knowledge) on the world literature: famous writers and their works; they should be able (have the skills) to discuss them in a cultural context and analyze them, applying literary terms.
Personality and Psychology	5	Challenging aspect of the course is to identify the components of personality theory. The major theoretical models presented in this subject will give students a sound foundation from which to grow, and find passion in a subject that never seems to lose interest & can provide a life-long learning experience.

American Art	5	The purpose of the course is to give students knowledge about key moments of art produced in the United States during XX century.
Advanced English Grammar II	5	The course aims to improve learners' language competence in English grammar. Students' speech and writing should become both fluent and grammatically correct; they should be able to reach pragmatic/communicative goals.
American Economics	5	The course gives chance to students to obtain an overview of the basics of the US Economy with particular attention on its updated status and the consequences of 2008 World Financial crises.
U.S. Foreign Policy from 1945 till present	5	The course aims to provide students with the knowledge about the basic issues of the U.S. foreign policy from 1945 till today.
Minor Program (Translation)		
Stylistics	5	The course aims at enhancing students' understanding of main concepts in stylistics, and specifically in English stylistics. It will provide an overview of stylistic devices which are used by humans to communicate a variety of meanings.
Simultaneous Translation I	5	The aim of the course is to assist the students to develop and enhance effective simultaneous interpretation skills and enable them to provide fluent translation by developing respective competencies in English and Georgian. It also aims to provide sound vocabulary input and knowledge of grammar structures.
Simultaneous Translation II	5	The aim of the course is to assist the students to develop and enhance effective simultaneous interpretation skills and enable them to provide fluent translation by developing respective competencies in English and Georgian. It also aims to provide sound vocabulary input and knowledge of grammar structures.
Lexicology	5	The course aims to identify the sources of modern English words together with the development of vocabulary over time.
Communicative Grammar	5	The course aims at enhancing students' understanding of the main concepts of communicative grammar of English and improving their grammatical competence in the English language and in general, their overall communicative competence as well.
Introduction to Translation	5	The aim of the course is to introduce to trainee's basics of translation studies and enable him/her to have some understanding of the subject of translation studies with the view of letting him/her use this knowledge in practice.
Terminology	5	Main goal of the course is to teach students how to conduct written and oral translations in business and economics.
Written Translation I	5	The goal of the course is to introduce student the essence of translation with its intercultural communication; to introduce the main concepts of translation studies, brief history of theory and practice of translation;
Written Translation II	5	The goal of the course is to introduce student the essence of translation with its intercultural communication; to introduce the main concepts of translation studies, brief history of theory and practice of translation;
Oral Translation I	5	The goal of the course is to introduce student the essence of translation with its intercultural communication; study pragmatic, semantic and stylistic aspects of translation,

		analysis of translated texts, basic strategies of translation and their adequate usage.
Oral Translation II	5	The goal of the course is to introduce student the essence of translation with its intercultural communication; study pragmatic, semantic and stylistic aspects of translation, analysis of translated texts, basic strategies of translation and their adequate usage.
Fieldwork in Translation	5	The aim of the course is to develop practical translation skills of trainees, teach them to effectively communicate in international and multinational environment, get them familiarized with various types of documents and assist in overcoming challenges in the translation process.
Minor Program (American Pop Culture and Public Relations (PR))		
American Pop Culture and Media	5	The course aims to provide students with the knowledge the basic moments of American pop culture and media.
American Pop Culture and Music	5	The course aims to introduce students to the key moments in the development of popular music in the US. The course focuses on the role of music in the history of culture and social issues, such as: American values, American music historical significance, its impact on social relations and culture. The course is based on the principle of chronology
Contemporary American Pop Culture	5	The course aims to introduce students to the history of American Popular Culture and to increase the knowledge and understanding of exceptional nature of American Popular Culture. This will be achieved through analyzing the 20th century America decade by decade.
Effective Presentation Skills	5	The aim of this course is to enable students to explore in depth a range of issues which are central to effective communication and presentation skills.
Fine Arts in Digital Media	5	This course aims to improve creative thinking side. Introduce a general history of fine arts and fine arts using various ways and means of modern art (design, web design, advertising, media arts ...) the student will be able to independently design concept been designed in view of the Web.
History of American Pop Culture	5	The course aims to introduce students to the history of American Popular Culture and to increase the knowledge and understanding of exceptional nature of American Popular Culture. This will be achieved through analyzing the 20th century America decade by decade.
Leadership Management	5	The course describes issues and methodological principles of the Leadership management, discusses Leadership historical roots and subject-matter, ethical and legislative norms, main trends and specialization.
Organizational Behavior	5	The course also aims to assist students to develop skills of analyzing/known the establishment of the relationships/behaviors between colleagues in organizations.
Public Relations and Communication Management	5	The aim of this course is to enable a student to explore in depth a range of issues which are central to the current debate about communication management and public relations, and to critically evaluate some key and contemporary issues in existing in the discipline.

Speech Writing	5	The aim of the course is to enable trainees to be successful speakers and speech writers and get them acquainted to delivering speeches with vigor
Public Relations Theoretical Basics	5	The course describes issues and methodological principles of the PR management, discusses PR historical roots and subject-matter, ethical and legislative norms, main trends and specialization.
Fieldwork in Public Relations	5	The course helps students to acquire practice to be able to utilize strategies of PR; delivers consultations for them during the reading of the course and after covering it; share their experience with the instructor and accept advice and recommendations from him/her.

Learning Outcomes

Graduate student has:

- Broad knowledge about US multicultural society, where people with diverse perceptions are united by the fundamental civil rights;
- A high and sophisticated level of the English language enriched with broad knowledge and relevant terminology of diverse multidisciplinary program courses: American Culture, American Literature, American History, American Geography, American Women's History, American Women's Studies, American Media, American Politics, American Art, Hollywood, American Business Law, American Economics, as well as with knowledge and terminology of minor programs: Translation; American Pop Culture and Public Relations (PR), gives great chance of employment to the graduate.

1) Minor Program in Translation

- The graduate possesses translation skills in terms of communicative-pragmatic aspect: official-business, scientific, newspaper, advertising papers, prose and literature.

Is able to:

- Understand-analyze-translate foreign authentic and unauthentic texts.

2) Minor Program in American Pop Culture and Public Relations (PR)

After the completion of the minor program, the graduate has the knowledge of:

- Main concepts and aspects of public relations and communication management;
- Latest American methods and instruments for making effective presentation envisaging the cause of the popularity of the American pop culture.

Evaluation System

The maximum assessment point of each course is 100. The passing grade for awarding credits is 51 points and this grade shall consist of the points of the midterm evaluation(s) and the points of the final assessment. The student should pass the minimal competence level set for midterm evaluation and final assessment. The minimal competence level of the midterm/final evaluation is defined by syllabi.

The grading system shall allow:

a) Five positive grades:

- (A) Excellent –91-100 points;
- (B) Very good –81-90 points of maximum grade;
- (C) Good – 71-80 points of maximum grade;
- (D) Satisfactory – 61-70 points of maximum grade;
- (E) Acceptable –51-60 points of maximum grade;

b) Two types of negative grades:

- (FX) Fail – 41-50 points of maximum grade, meaning that a student requires some more work before passing and is given a chance to sit an additional examination after independent work;
- (F) Fail –40 points and less of maximum grade, meaning that the work of a student is not acceptable and he/she has to study the subject a new.

The final grade is composed of the summation of midterm evaluation(s) and the final evaluation.