American Culture and Diplomacy

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About the course:

1. has been offered in fall semester for 2 years;
2. One class each week for 10 weeks + exam;
3. A two-credit course;
4. Term paper + class performances;
5. 120+ students for one class;
6. Top 20 (out of 300+ optional courses) in students evaluation and awarded “the most favorite optional course” in 2015
Goals for the course:

a. Students will get more historical facts about American culture;

b. Students will learn cultural origins of American motivation of diplomatic policies; (Bush example)

c. The course will help students to have a comprehensive look at Sino-U.S. communications;

d. The improvement of students’ English level;
Contents for the course:

Questionnaire on Students’ Knowledge about American culture:

10 questions with choices A, B, C and D:

A. Completely understand
B. Somewhat understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new to me
1. How much do you know the puritan origin of American culture and the religious sense of mission:

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
2. How much do you know about liberalism and the change of its connotation:

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new

A. 3.6
B. 14.5
C. 27.3
D. 46.4
3. How much do you know American exceptionalism?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
4. How much do you know about American pragmatism?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
5. How much do you know about isolationism?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
6. How much do you know human rights diplomacy?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
7. How much do you know about anti-communism and its relationship with American national interests?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
8. How much do you know about American expansionism (in culture)?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
9. How much do you know about American rebalance-of-power policy in Asian-Pacific region?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new

A: 3.57%
B: 44.6%
C: 37.5%
D: 12.5%
10. How much do you know about American dream of becoming world leader and the reality?

A. Completely understand
B. Some what understand
C. I heard it mentioned
D. Completely new
Course schedule:

Week One: Puritan Origin of American Culture and the Myth of Mission;
Week Two: American Liberalism;
Week Three: The Pragmatic Tradition and American Foreign Policy;
Week Four: The Rise and Fall of the Isolationism;
Week Five: The Expansionism in American Culture;
Week Six: Dream and Reality of American World Leadership;
Week Seven: The Human Rights Diplomacy: History and Reality;
Week Eight: Ideology and National Interests;
Week Nine: American Cultural Diplomacy;
Week Ten: Sino-American Relation (1989-2000);
Week Eleven: Exam
Desired students outcomes:

1. Knowledge on Puritanism and its influences;

2. Understanding of Liberalism and its change of connotation (government and society);

3. Knowledge on American exceptionalism;

4. Understanding of the rise and fall of isolationism;

5. Knowledge on cultural expansionism and its influence on national interests
Kinds of texts used:

a. Books: excerpts from:

   J.A. Leo Lemay ed. *An Early American Reader*.


b. Pictures:

   Pictures related to relevant topics (donated by Beijing embassy)
c. Movies: to be determined

d. Topics for discussion:

Myth of Mission and American War on terror;

Liberalism and the 2008 financial crisis; (the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers)

ACCEX, Confucius Institutes and American cultural diplomacy;

Major-country relationship and American dream of world leader;

......etc.
Required readings:

1. Wang xiaode: *American Culture and Diplomacy*
   a. an introduction to American culture, many historical facts included in the book;
   b. not that difficult for students to understand

2. J.A. Leo Lemay ed. *An Early American Reader* (excerpts)
   a. a book with historical documents;
   b. in English

   a. a book describing American culture and cultural diplomacy
Additional texts:

Journal articles and book excerpts will be suggested for students to read after each class.

(to be listed)

Reference readings for teachers:


Plans for dissemination and digital implementation:

a. The course is now offered in fall semester and will be offered in spring semester in the future;
b. To accept more students in each class (now 120);
c. To make it a massive-online-open course if conditions are fulfilled;
谢谢