



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

REGIONAL STUDIES: UNITED STATES

DESCRIPTION: This subject is an approach to and analysis of, the United States, beginning with the origins and definition of the idea of America. Its contents include the economy, the system of government and the foreign policy of a country that generates much more fascination than knowledge.

SUBJECT SPECIFICATIONS:

The subject "Regional Studies: United States" brings students closer to the reality and complexity of this country which has a global influence. The goal is to be aware of the complex nature of a leading player on the world stage, the knowledge of which is essential to develop a satisfactory professional career with an international scope

SKILLS- GOALS

General Skills-Goals:

- Analysis and synthesis capacity
- Organisational and planning capacity
- Basic knowledge of the area of study
- Appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism
- Working in an international context
- Ability to work and learn independently
- Concern for quality

Specific Skills-Goals

- Knowledge of the historical, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of the world's largest geographical regions

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

Block I: Introduction to the Idea of America

- Introduction

Block II: American Politics and Economy

- American Economy
- The Political System of the United States

Block III: The External Dimension of the United States (Diplomacy, Security and Development)

- Foreign Policy
- The United States Defense
- Policy of Cooperation for Development

Block IV: The United States and the World



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

- Bilateral and multilateral relations of the United States
- Government Organisations and International Regimes

Block V: The Future

- The US and Global Challenges

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

The subject "Regional Studies: United States" will have both a classroom component and an important non-classroom segment.

Regarding the classroom component, the lecturer will impart lessons on the basic contents of the subject. This classroom component will be supplemented by contributions made by the students in different modes (debates, presentations, etc.)

The non-classroom part of the subject will focus on the work to be completed by the student outside the classroom. They will essentially be assigned a term paper-policy paper. Students must develop aspects of their professional profiles through this exercise, as well as prepare a relevant topic to be shared in class.

ATTENDANCE:

TUTORING:

CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY:

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA

It is compulsory to pass the final examination (5.0) in order to add up the rest of the grades.

Percentage: (50%)

To research and draft a Policy Paper

Percentage: (20%)

Attendance and active participation

Percentage: (5%)

Groupwork: To develop a group activity which will be presented in class. A 5000-word report must be submitted.

Percentage: (25%)

GRADING

- Serious misconduct, such as **plagiarising** previously published materials or **copying** in the examination and other assessment activities, **may lead to disciplinary proceedings against the student and the loss of two academic sessions**
- In order to be eligible for the final examination, the student must **not have been absent without justification for more than one-third of the classes**. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the student's loss of both the ordinary and the extraordinary sessions



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

(Art. 93.1 of the General Regulation). The student's absence during the first hour of a double class implies having missed the entire session, irrespective of whether the student attends during the second hour or not.

- A **50% in the final examination grade, 50% in the group presentation and 50% in the individual project** is required in order to pass the subject
- The practical exercises (individual paper and group presentation) are **compulsory both in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary sessions. The same criteria and assessment percentages are applicable in both sessions**

SUMMARY OF STUDENT STUDY HOURS

Classroom hours: 60

Non-classroom hours: 90

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 93.1 of the General Regulation of the University "absence from more than one third, or even a lower threshold where so established in the academic rules of the Centre, of the classroom hours of each subject shall result in the student's inability to attend the examination in the ordinary session of the same academic year. The academic rules of the Centre may extend such consequence to the extraordinary examination session also".

REFERENCE AND MATERIALS

- Foner, Eric Give Me Liberty!: *An American History*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2014.
- Kernell, S., Jacobson G., Kousser, T. and Vavreck, L. *The Logic of American Politics*. Thousands Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2016.
- Mauk, D. and Oakland, J. *American Civilization: An Introduction*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2014.
- Spanier, J. and Hook, S. *American Foreign Policy since World War II*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2016

Additional References

- Cox, M. and Stokes, D. *US Foreign Policy*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton*. New York, NY: Penguin Press, 2004.
- Davidson, J. W. *A Little History of the United States*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015.
- Dueck, Colin. *The Obama Doctrine*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013
- Ginsberg, B., et al. *We the people: An Introduction to American politics*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

- Herring, George C. *From colony to superpower: U.S. foreign relations since 1776*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Jentleson, Bruce W. *American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21st Century*. New York, N.Y., W.W. Norton & Company, 2014.
- Keller, Morton. *Obama's Time: A History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Lepore, Jill. *These Truths: A History of the United States*. New York, NY: Norton & Company, 2018
- Light, Paul C. *A Delicate Balance: An Essential Introduction to American Government*. Boston: Bedford/St.Martins, 1999.
- Meacham, Jon. *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. New York, N.Y., Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2009.
- Mead, Walter Russell. *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2002.
- Rosati, J. and Scott, J. *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*. Boston, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2014.
- Shi, D. and Tindall, G. *America: The Essential Learning Edition*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.
- Vile, M. J. C. *Politics in the USA*. London: Routledge, 2007.
- Wood, Gordon S. *The Idea of America: Reflections on the Birth of the United States*. New York, NY, Penguin Books, 2012.
- Woodward, Bob. *Fear: Trump in the White House*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2018

Journal Article in Spanish

- Casado Rodríguez, Yolanda (coordinadora). *El sistema político de Estados Unidos*. Madrid: Tecnos, 2016.
- Fernández de Castro, R. y Blackmore, H. (coordinadores). *¿Qué es Estados Unidos?* México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2008.
- Goldberg, Jeffrey. "The Obama Doctrine." *The Atlantic*. April, 2016.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/>
- Priego, Alberto (coordinador). *La Política Exterior de los Estados Unidos*, Cuadernos Comillas de Política Exterior Nº1, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, 2015.
- Rodríguez, Pedro. Blog *Diálogo Atlántico* del Instituto Franklin de la Universidad de Alcalá:
<http://dialogoatlantico.com/firma/pedro-rodriguez/>

Other

- Atlantic (www.theatlantic.com)
- The Economist (www.economist.com)
- The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
- The White House (www.whitehouse.gov)
- The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
- US Senate (www.senate.gov)
- US Congress (<http://www.house.gov/>)
- US Government (<http://www.usa.gov/>)



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

- Department of State (www.state.gov)
- Department of Defense (<http://www.defense.gov/>)
- Atlantic Council US (www.acus.org)
- Brookings Institution (<http://www.brookings.edu/>)
- Center for International and Strategic Studies (www.csis.org)
- Center for a New American Security (www.cnas.org)
- Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (www.csbaonline.org)
- Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional (www.ceseden.es)
- Chatham House (<http://www.chathamhouse.org/>)
- Congressional Research Service (<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo>)
- Federation of American Scientists (www.fas.org)
- Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (www.frstrategie.org)
- Foreign Affairs (www.foreignaffairs.com)
- German Institute for International and Security Affairs (<http://www.swp-berlin.org/en/start-en.html>)
- Heritage Foundation (www.heritage.org)
- Infodefensa (www.infodefensa.com)
- Instituto Affari Internazionali (www.iai.it/index_en.asp)
- Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (www.iris-france.org)
- Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (www.ieee.es)
- Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado (www.iugm.es)
- International Crisis Group (www.crisisgroup.org)
- International Institute for Strategic Studies (www.iiss.org)
- International Relations and Security Network (www.isn.ethz.ch)
- IISS (www.iiss.org)
- Military Education Research Library Network (www.merln.ndu.edu)
- National Defense University (www.ndu.edu)
- NATO Defence College (<http://www.ndc.nato.int/>)
- NATO (www.nato.int)
- Politico (www.politico.com)
- UN (www.un.org)
- RAND Corporation (www.rand.org)
- Real Instituto Elcano (www.realinstitutoelcano.org)
- Small Wars Journal (www.smallwars.org)
- Stockholm International Research Institute (www.sipri.org)
- Strategic Studies Institute (www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil)
- Unidad de investigación sobre Seguridad y Cooperación Internacional (www.ucm.es/info/unisci)