

Snapshots of the U.S.A.

Two-year seminar taught by Keith Wangle



Aims of the seminar:

- Improve your English by reading, discussing and analyzing topics related to US culture, history, politics and geography
- Achieve a better understanding of a country which, for better or worse, is reshaping our future in Europe
- Learn to express yourself well and confidently in writing
- Raise your English to certificate level, i.e., combine this seminar with CAE/FCE practice tests available online to prepare for a Cambridge certificate

Expectations and grading:

- Students will be expected to read for homework on a regular basis (approximately 30-60 minutes per week) and to formulate their own ideas and opinions on the text.
- Students will be expected to actively participate in class discussion on the topic at hand.
- The semester grade will be based on active participation in class, writing assignments (reading comprehension/essays), presentations, and, e.g., grammar work assigned to close gaps in students' knowledge.

Tentative reading list:

- *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Excerpts from *The Revenge of Geography* by Robert D. Kaplan
- Articles from, e.g., The Economist, New York Times, The Guardian

Film and video: Film and video will also be used as the basis for discussing and analyzing relevant topics.