Cultural Policies in the US (Bachelor Year 3 / Spring)

Bachelor in English and American Language, Literature and History / Faculty of Liberal Arts

Introduction

This course is an introduction to the organization of political institutions in the USA which differs greatly from Europe. There is no equivalent to the French Ministry for Culture, and a large part of American cultural institutions is funded privately. The first part of the class will be dedicated to the creation of the first American museums, from the Peale Museum in the late 18th century by painter Charles Willson Peale, the foundation of the Smithsonian institution and the Barnum Museum in the first half of the 19th century. The history of international fairs from the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 will be studied, especially their immense power of attraction and the representation of American culture that was then promoted.
In the 20th century, real cultural policies started pushed forward by the federal government during the period of the New deal as well as after the war with the Marshall Plan, and in the 1960s with the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for Humanities. The importance of philanthropy and patronage will be examined from the Robber barrons until today, as the functioning of Boards of trustees and the controversies which started with the origin of some American fortunes (for instance the Sackler family). Finally the class will look at the debates that have risen in the cultural spheres in the USA from the culture wars of the 1980s to Black Lives Matter today.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- have in a depth knowledge of American cultural policies from the 19th century to today
- be able to write an essay on a given topic

Admission

Prerequisite

Prerequisites training

Students with at least a B2 level in English are welcome in this class.
An interest in visual culture is expected.

Program

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

Methods of Instruction

-lecturing with PowerPoint presentation
- use of the e-learning platform

Assessment anf Final Grade

Ongoing assessment

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance
- Document posted on the e-learning platform should studied after the classes
- Proficiency in the English language