

# ESL Advanced Study American Values through Cinema



## Welcome

I am pleased that you have elected to further your study of English at Teachers College, Columbia University. It is my hope that you will find this course to be a challenging, insightful, and complex way in which you can further hone your English skills in four areas: speaking, writing, reading and listening.

**Course Goals:** This course is designed to help broaden students' understanding of American and values through the medium of film. Students will take a critical approach to analyzing the films and themes presented to develop their knowledge of prominent post-modern values upheld in America.

**Course Objectives:** Students will be able to analyze and interpret a variety of films from various time periods and values.

Write reflective pieces that demonstrate comprehension of film and key themes and values.

Produce reviews of films seen and contrast their reviews to those of their classmates and professionals.

## Instructor Information

Abby Porter Trafny  
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## Location and Time

Grace Dodge Hall (GDH) 543

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm

Please arrive to class at 10:00 sharp. We will begin class immediately and your punctual arrival is expected.

## Important Dates

**September 27 (Monday) First day of class**

**September 29 (Wednesday) Advanced Study Class canceled**

**September 30 (Thursday) Last day to get a full refund**

**November 22-25 Thanksgiving Break, No classes**

**December 9 (Thursday) Last day of class, Pot-luck Party**

## Course Website

<https://sites.google.com/site/cepadvancedstudies/>

This website is designed specifically for your class and I encourage you to use it as a resource often. You will be asked to post weekly, beginning on October 1, 2010. All posts should be made by 12:00 pm on Friday. Late posts will result in lower grades. Each post will be a reflection on a film or value discussed in class. This is meant to be a collaborative tool to help facilitate discussion outside of class. You should be interacting and responding to your classmates' posts as well. Links to help guide your research and further your understanding of American values and cinema are also included on this site. If you do not have a computer to use at home, there are computer labs available to use here at Teachers College.

## Course Outline

### Week 1 September 27-October 1

Theme: Personal Control and Materialism

Movie Screening: *Wall Street*

Function: Persuasive speech and writing

Elevator Pitch

### Week 2 October 4-8

Theme: Change and Time

Movie Screenings: *Wall Street*

Function: Future and Tenses

Goal Setting

### Week 3 October 11-15

Theme: Equality

Moving Screenings: *Groundhog Day*

Function: Cause and Effect

Give Opinions

### Week 4 October 18-22

Theme: Individualism

Movie Screenings: *Groundhog Day*

Function: Complaints

Business emails--complaints

### Week 5 October 25-29

Theme: Self Help

Movie Screenings: *Walk the Line*

Function: Reasoning and developing solutions

Give advice

### Week 6 November 1-5

Theme: Competition and Free Enterprise

Movie Screenings: *Walk the Line*

Function: Listening for key details

Describe someone's life, make comparisons

**Midterm Due: November 7th**

**Week 7 November 8-12**

Theme: Future Orientation and Practicality

 Movie Screenings: *Walk the Line*

Function: Discriminate between messages and hidden agendas

Speak with suggestions

**Week 8 November 15-19**

Theme: Action and Work

 Movie Screenings: *When Harry Met Sally*

Function: Organization and delivery

Speak logically

**Week 9 No Class**
**Week 10 November 29-December 3**

Theme: Informality and Directness

 Movie Screenings: *When Harry Met Sally*

Function: Modal Verbs

Write about possibility

**Week 11 December 6-10**

Theme: Personal Control

 Movie Screenings: *When Harry Met Sally*

Function: identify problems or issues in writing

Use written language playfully

**Grading**

The grading scale at CEP is as follows:

97-100%	A+	80-83%	B-
94-96%	A	77-79%	C+
90-93%	A-	74-76%	C
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-
84-86%	B	0-69%	F

**Community English Program**

The Community Language Program (CLP) is a unique and integral part of the TESOL and Applied Linguistics Programs at Teachers College, Columbia University. It provides English as a second language and foreign language instruction to adult learners of diverse nationalities and backgrounds. In addition, the CLP serves as an on-site language education lab in which TESOL and Applied Linguistics faculty and students enrolled in the programs teach the courses and use the CLP as a setting for empirical inquiry. Here at Teachers College we believe that observation and classroom research are the best way to learn about how we teach and gain insights into how teaching might take place. Thus, we encourage observation and classroom research and want people to use it as a tool for learning. Ongoing assessment and program evaluation allow us to make the CLP a better program.