

**MINISZTERSTVO OSVITI I NAUKI UKRAINI
UKRAJNA OKTATÁSI ÉS TUDOMÁNYOS MINISZTERIUMA**

**Закарпатський угорський інститут імені Ференца Ракоці II
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“

**Методичні вказівки до семінарських занять з дисципліни /
Módszertani útmutató a szemináriumi munkához**

Країнознавство: США/Országismeret: USA tantárgyból

Розробник методичних вказівок / A módszertani útmutató kidolgozója:

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Затверджено на засіданні кафедри філології
Протокол №1 від „27” серпня 2019 року
Jóváhagyva a Filológia Tanszék ülésén
Augusztus 27-én, jegyzőkönyv száma: 1.

Рекомендовано до друку Вченою радою Закарпатського угорського інституту ім.

Ф.Ракоці II (протокол № 5 від 27.08.2020 р.)

Method-Guides and Plans for Seminars on the Course

Culture Studies: the USA

PREFACE

The present set of method-guides and plans for seminars on the course “Culture Studies: the USA” is intended for the 1st year students of the day-time and the extramural department. It is based on the requirements for University Faculties of Foreign Languages. The purpose of this method-guide is to help students be competent in a country study of the USA through a language and develop their communicative competence. This study attempts to review the history, geography, arts and culture of the USA in a concise and objective manner.

The structure of these plans, the number of themes included and the interpretation of the material is determined by the standard syllabus of instruction and the up-to-date manuals in Culture Studies. The list of recommended literature contains the most authoritative manuals and articles published on the topic.

The country study of the USA is a fascinating field in its own right, but it also provides a valuable perspective for the contemporary study of the language. The historical account promotes a sense of identity and continuity, and enables us to find coherence in many fluctuations and conflicts of present-day English language use. It is mainly focused on its dominant social, political, economic, and cultural aspects.

The lecturer’s immediate aims are to supply students with such information as will enable them to form judgements of their own on questions and form their critical thinking. Seminars in Culture Studies should bring forth in the students a steady habit of trying to see into the deeper implications, teach them how to work independently on the given topic, improve their cultural aspects and point of view through reading and critically appraising the available works on Culture Studies.

Seminar 1

National holidays, customs and traditions. Uniquely American celebrations.

Food and drinks

Plan

1. National holidays in the USA
2. Public and religious holidays
3. Specific American holidays
 - 3.1. Martin Luther King Day
 - 3.2. Presidents' Day
 - 3.3. Memorial Day
 - 3.4. Independence Day (4th of July)
 - 3.5. Columbus Day
 - 3.6. Veterans' Day
 - 3.7. Thanksgiving
4. Traditions and way of celebration
5. American cuisine
6. Traditional and regional cuisines in the USA
7. American eating habits
8. Fast food and American fast food chains

Recommended Literature

1. Гапонів А., Возна М.О: Лінгвокраїнознавство. Вінниця. : Нова Книга, 2005.
2. Глазкова І.Я. Країнознавство. Модульний курс: Навчальний посібник для студентів. – Бердянськ: Видавець Ткачук О.В., 2011.
3. An Outline Of American History. United States Information Agency.
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The present seminar aims at giving a clear view to learners about the national traditions in the USA. Americans have a rich tradition and its rich variety can be found in their unique customs and way of celebration. Americans try to express themselves through these by showing their true love toward the nation and its people. **Patriotism** is one of the key concepts and motives in the nation's life. *Patriotism - patriotism or national pride is the feeling of love, devotion and sense of attachment to a homeland and alliance with other citizens who share the same sentiment.*

American national holidays as holidays vary locally. The federal government recognizes ten annual and one quadrennial holiday, these are observed by local governments and businesses, but they may change the dates of observance or add or subtract holidays according local customs. The most important holidays are New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some holidays in the US have a political or historical background, while others are rooted in religious beliefs or in the traditions of the many different ethnic groups of the US.

Independence Day (4th of July) – celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Families often mark the Fourth with picnic or barbecue and visiting relatives. Parades are often held in the morning, in the evening there are public displays and fireworks. Learners should be able to identify the different characteristics of each holiday, know the historical background, how and when are they celebrated.

Thanksgiving Day – celebrated in much of North America, as an expression of gratitude to God for giving them America. The most common view of its origin is closely connected to the autumn harvest. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. It is traditionally celebrated with a feast among family and friends. Thanksgiving holiday is generally a “four-day” weekend (Thursday and Friday is off). Thanksgiving dinner is the center of the holiday with the main dish – turkey.

Labor Day - is a holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September, that resulted from the efforts of the labour union movement, to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. The origins of the American Labor Day can be traced back to the Knights of Labor in the USA and a parade organized by them at that time (September 5, 1882). President Grover Cleveland formally recognized the festival in 1886.

Halloween – is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31, usually by children dressing in costumes and going door-to-door collecting sweets. Celtic and other immigrants brought older versions of traditions to North America which transformed into contemporary American

Halloween. In the Druidic religion of the ancient Celts, the new year began with the winter season November 1. Just as shorter days signified the start of the new year; therefore the harvest festival began every year on the night of October 31.

American cuisine. **Cuisine** is specific set of cooking traditions and practices, often associated with a specific culture or region. American cuisine has a history dating back before the colonial period. With European colonization, the style of cookery changed vastly. The style of cookery continued to expand into the 19th and 20th centuries. Cookery style varied greatly from group to group.

Pre-Colonial cuisine - seafood in the United States originated with the Native Americans, who often ate cod, lemon sole, flounder, herring, halibut, sturgeon, smelt. Whale was hunted by Native Americans off the Northwest coast, especially by the Makah, and used for their meat and oil. Catfish was also popular amongst native peoples. Early Native Americans utilized a number of cooking methods in early American cuisine that have been blended with early European cooking methods to form the basis of American Cuisine. Grilling meats was common. Spit roasting over a pit fire was common as well. Vegetables, especially root vegetables were often cooked directly in the ashes of the fire.

Post-Colonial cuisine - During the 18th and 19th centuries, Americans developed many new food. Some, such as Rocky Mountain oysters, stayed regional; some spread throughout the nation but with little international appeal, such as peanut butter (a core ingredient of the famous peanut butter and jelly sandwich); and some spread throughout the world, such as popcorn, Coca-Cola and its competitors, fried chicken, cornbread, unleavened muffins such as the poppy seed muffin, and brownies.

Modern cuisine - During the Progressive Era (1890s–1920s) food production and presentation became more industrialized. Major railroads featured upscale cuisine in their dining cars. Restaurant chains emerged with standardized decor and menus. During World War I the Progressives' moral advice about food conservation was emphasized in large-scale state and federal programs designed to educate housewives. Newspapers and magazines ran recipe columns, aided by research by corporate kitchens. One characteristic of American cooking is the fusion of multiple ethnic or regional approaches into completely new cooking styles. Hamburgers and hot dogs from German cuisine, spaghetti and pizza from Italian cuisine became popular. Since the 1960s Asian cooking has played a particularly large role in American fusion cuisine.

Seminar 2

Leisure activities. Sports. Fashion and clothing

Plan

1. Recreation in the USA
2. Leisure activities of Americans
3. Sports and the USA
4. Popular sports in the USA
5. Historical background of the traditional American Sports
6. Major Sports in America
7. Major Leagues:
 - 7.1. National Football League
 - 7.2. National Basketball Association
 - 7.3. Major League Baseball
 - 7.4. National Hockey League
8. American Fashion Trends
9. The historical overview of American clothing
10. Modern Fashion Trends and Brands

Recommended Literature

1. Гапонів А., Возна М.О: Лінгвокраїнознавство. Вінниця. : Нова Книга, 2005.
2. Глазкова І.Я. Країнознавство. Модульний курс: Навчальний посібник для студентів. – Бердянськ: Видавець Ткачук О.В., 2011.
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GUIDELINES

The first part of the seminar is devoted to the recreation, free-time activities and type of sports popular in the USA. There are many sporting activities which are a part of daily American life. Most Americans who live in the North grow up with outdoor winter sport: skating, sledding. Fishing and hunting are also popular. All water sport and activities are very popular. They include swimming, ski diving sailing, canoeing and boat racing. There are several unusual sports in the USA. Skate-boarding, wind-surfing, hang-gliding became very popular in the U.S.

Ice-Hockey - Stick-and-ball games date back to pre-Christian times. In Europe, these games included the Irish game of *hurling*, the closely related Scottish game of *shinty* and versions of field hockey(including "*bandie ball*," played in England). *IJscolf*, a game resembling colf on an ice-covered surface, was popular in the Low Countries between the Middle Ages and the Dutch Golden Age. It was played with a wooden curved bat (called a colf or kolf), a wooden or leather ball and two poles (or nearby landmarks), with the objective to hit the chosen point using the least number of strokes. Modern Ice-Hockey - While the game's origins lie elsewhere, Montreal is at the centre of the development of modern ice hockey. On March 3, 1875, the first organized indoor game was played at *Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink* between two nine-player teams, including *James Creighton* and several McGill University students. Instead of a ball, the game featured a puck. The McGill University Hockey Club, the first hockey club, was founded in 1877,followed by the Montreal Victorias, organized in 1881. **NHL** - Professional hockey has existed since the early 20th century. By 1902, the Western Pennsylvania Hockey League was the first to employ professionals. The league joined with teams in Michigan and Ontario to form the first fully professional league—the International Professional Hockey League (IPHL)—in 1904

Basketball - In early December 1891, Canadian American Dr. James Naismith, a physical education professor and instructor at the International Young Men's Christian Association Training School (YMCA) (today, Springfield College) was trying to keep his gym class active on a rainy day. He nailed a peach basket onto a 10 foot (3,05m) elevated track. Basketball was originally played with a soccer ball. The first balls made specifically for basketball were brown, and it was only in the late 1950s (Tony Hinkle). Dribbling was not part of the original game except for the "bounce pass" to teammates. Passing the ball was the primary means of ball movement. Dribbling was eventually introduced but limited by the asymmetric shape of early balls. Dribbling only became a major part of the game around the 1950s, as manufacturing improved the ball shape. **NBA** - The National Basketball Association (NBA) is the pre-eminent men's professional basketball league in North America. It has thirty franchised member clubs (29 in the United States and 1 in Canada), The league was founded in New York City on June 6,

1946, as the Basketball Association of America (BAA)

Baseball - The evolution of baseball from older bat-and-ball games is difficult to trace with precision. A French manuscript from 1344 contains an illustration of clerics playing a game, possibly la soule, with similarities to baseball. Other old French games such as thèque, la balle au bâton, and la balle empoisonnée also appear to be related. The earliest known reference to baseball is in a 1744 British publication, *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book*, by John Newbery. It contains a rhymed description of "base-ball,,.David Block discovered that the first recorded game of "Bass-Ball" took place in 1749 in Surrey, and featured the Prince of Wales as a player. William Bray, an English lawyer, recorded a game of baseball on Easter Monday 1755 in Guildford, Surrey. This early form of the game was apparently brought to North America by English immigrants. The first known American reference to baseball appears in a 1791 Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In 1845, Alexander Cartwright, a member of New York City's Knickerbockers club, led the codification of the so-called Knickerbocker Rules. While there are reports that the *New York Knickerbockers* played games in 1845, the contest now recognized as the first officially recorded baseball game in U.S. history took place on June 19, 1846, in Hoboken, New Jersey: the "New York Nine" defeated the Knickerbockers, 23–1, in four innings. **MLB - Major League Baseball (MLB)** is a professional baseball organization that constitutes one of the four major professional sports leagues in North America. MLB teams play in the **American League (AL)** and **National League (NL)**, which operated as separate legal entities from 1901 and 1876 respectively. Baseball's first professional team was founded in Cincinnati in 1869

American Football evolved from the sport of rugby football. The first American football game was played on **November 6, 1869** between **Rutgers and Princeton**. The game was played between two teams of 25 players each, used a round ball, and resembled a combination of rugby and soccer in its rules; the ball could not be picked up or carried, but it could be kicked or batted with the feet, hands, head or sides, with the ultimate goal of advancing it into the opponent's goal. In 1873 standard rules were set and teams were set at 20 players each. From 1882 a team would have three downs to advance the ball five yards. The legal forward pass was introduced in 1906 after its suggestion by **John Heisman**. Further 1906 rules changes included the reduction of the time of play from 70 to 60 minutes and the increase of the distance requirement for a first down to 10 yards over three downs. Field goals were lowered to three points in 1909 and touchdowns raised to six points in 1912. The field was also reduced to 100 yards long, but two 10-yard-long end zones were created, and teams were given four downs instead of three to advance the ball 10 yards. **NFL - The National Football League (NFL)** is a professional American football league that constitutes one of the four major professional sports leagues in

North America. It is composed of 32 teams divided equally between the **National Football Conference** (NFC) and the **American Football Conference** (AFC). The highest professional level of the sport in the world,[4] the NFL runs a 17-week regular season from the week after Labor Day to the week after Christmas, with each team playing sixteen games and having one bye week each season. Out of the league's 32 teams, six (four division winners and two wild-card teams) from each conference compete in the NFL playoffs, a single-elimination tournament culminating in the **Super Bowl**, played between the champions of the NFC and AFC. The champions of the Super Bowl are awarded the **Vince Lombardi Trophy**.

This seminar also discusses the fashion trends and historical background of fashion and clothing in America. **American Fashion** - Fashions and styles in America have changed dramatically over the decades in the past century. There are many factors that dictate which fashions come in and out of style in the United States. Many styles in the new millennium are inspired by the trends in past decades, and the trends in those decades were connected to what was going on in the country at that time. Crises in America profoundly affect what people wear, what they buy, and what they desire. *The Great Depression* in the '30s and early '40s heavily impacted what Americans bought and wore as clothing. Once people had to fight to feed their families, fashion became an unnecessary luxury, and was seemingly unimportant compared to other things in daily life. Fashion fell by the wayside for a few years during this time, but never vanished completely, because the lack of style actually then became the style of the time. **The Great Depression** - *The Great Depression was the worst economic downturn in the history of the industrialized world, lasting from 1929 to 1939. It began after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street into a panic and wiped out millions of investors. Over the next several years, consumer spending and investment dropped, causing steep declines in industrial output and employment as failing companies laid off workers. By 1933, when the Great Depression reached its lowest point, some 15 million Americans were unemployed and nearly half the country's banks had failed.*

In the early 1900s, fashion was beginning to change into commerce. In the meantime, most women still wore full cover dresses that showed little to no skin. Women often changed their outfits several times a day depending on occasions in order to maintain proper etiquette. Between 1910 and 1920, fashion began to loosen up. French designers like Paul Poiret began designing dresses for an un-corseted figure, using loose, elegant draping. The clothes possessed softer lines and fell over a woman's curves rather than forcing their bodies to conform to their clothing, as previous designers had done.

The Great Depression - Clothing during the Depression was usually comfortable pants and tops

that women already owned prior to the Depression, since most did not have the funds to buy anything new. Women needed to be dressed in order for them to move and work freely, so colors and fabrics did not much matter anymore. Once the Depression ended, trends slowly moved back towards a more feminine look. Starlets in Hollywood became the source of inspiration for women seeking style. Late 1930s fashion was fueled by Hollywood star's glamour.

1940s: Women's Workwear - Service uniforms were constantly worn by both men and women at all types of social events. The reality of the war became impossible to ignore as military style became the most popular trend in clothing. **1950s: Retro Beauty** - This retro decade's fashion exploded for women in terms of fabrics. There were two specific eras of style in the '50s decade. The early '50s were devoted to poodle skirts and modest white blouses with black and white Oxford shoes. **1960s: A Fashion Revolution** - The 1960s in America were a time of change, and the fashion world was not excluded from this. The fashion revolution in the '60s witnessed an explosion of youth that again changed styles completely. The Western world began to rebel against the runway collections of designers in Paris and create their own trends instead. Designers then followed their creations and desperately tried to include them into clothing for the masses. This era is when the ever-popular wardrobe staple of blue jeans became the fashion staple that it is today. **1970s: Funky Style** - Fashion in the 1970s went through an experimental phase after the psychedelic-style clothing from the '60s carried over. Much of the hippie style had been integrated into the mainstream American society by the early '70s. However, by the mid '70s, with the end of the draft and the Vietnam War, the media lost interest in the hippie counterculture. Instead, there was a revival of the mod subculture, and the emergence of new youth cultures like skinhead and punk styles gained popularity. **1980: The Edge of Fashion** - When 1980s fashion is thought of, many different styles come to mind: fashion in the '80s was a melting pot of personal styles; multiple trends were combined in different ways to form one's own look. Of all the decades in the past century, '80s fashion is remembered with the most outrageous styles. Subtlety in fashion was never practiced—everything was the bigger the better. Big hair, heavy makeup, pounds of metal jewelry and pearls, and mixed bright colors are trademark styles of '80s fashion. **1990-2000s: Fashion Goes Modern** - The punk style popular in the '80s evolved into the grunge style of the '90s. Alternative music ruled the air waves, and the rocker style gained popularity. Denim, most often ripped and distressed, was at the forefront of the grunge fashion movement. The **2000s** are often described as a mash-up decade. The decade did not have one or two particular styles like prior ones, but a multitude of fashion styles that included recycling fads from past decades, and calling it vintage

Seminar 3

The Main Cities of the USA. Washington D.C. Dialects

Plan

1. The main cities in the USA
2. The capital: Washington D.C.
3. New York
4. Boston
5. Chicago
6. Los Angeles
7. Hollywood
8. The history of the film industry
9. Dialects of the USA

Recommended Literature

1. Гапонів А., Возна М.О: Лінгвокраїнознавство. Вінниця. : Нова Книга, 2005.
2. Глазкова І.Я. Країнознавство. Модульний курс: Навчальний посібник для студентів. – Бердянськ: Видавець Ткачук О.В., 2011.
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5. David Mauk, John Oakland: American Civilization - An Introduction. 5th Edition, Routledge, 2009.
6. Donner D., Pintér K., Suba F., Surányi E., Szántó I.: Cultural Relations. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 2010.
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8. Neil Campbell, Alasdair Kean (2012): American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture. Routledge, 2012.

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Boston - The capital and largest city of the state of Massachusetts. One of the oldest cities in the United States. It was founded in 1630 by the Puritans. Boston is placed among the top 30 most economically powerful cities in the world. Boston's colleges and universities have a significant effect on the regional economy. Other important industries are financial services, especially mutual funds and insurance. Because of the city's prominent role in the American Revolution, several historic sites relating to that period. The city is also home to several art museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Its largest private universities include Boston University (the city's fourth-largest employer) with its main campus along Commonwealth Avenue and a medical campus in the South End. Boston is home to several conservatories and art schools, including Lesley University College of Art and Design, Massachusetts College of Art, New England Institute of Art, New England School of Art and Design. Several universities located outside Boston have a major presence in the city. Harvard University, the nation's oldest, is located across the Charles River in Cambridge. Its business and medical schools are in Boston, and there are plans for additional expansion into Boston's Allston neighborhood.

Chicago - Third most popular city in the United States. The city is an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. Fourth most important business centre of the world. The city is also home to major financial and futures exchanges, including the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Board Options Exchange. Manufacturing, printing, publishing and food processing also play major roles in the city's economy. There are many ethnican dining restaurants (Mexican, Italian, Puerto Rican). Lincoln Park is home to the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Lincoln Park Conservatory. Renowned Chicago theater companies include the Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Victory Gardens Theater in Lincoln Park. Since the 1850s, Chicago has been a world center of higher education and research with several universities that are in the city proper or in the immediate environs. Top universities in Chicago are: The University of Chicago; Northwestern University; Loyola University Chicago; Illinois Institute of Technology; DePaul University; and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles holds many distinctions. LA is the capital of the world, a cultural mecca more than 300 museums, a paradise of good weather and the central place of parties, clubs, and nightclubs. From tourist attractions like the Walk of Fame's collection of stars to career opportunities like those presented in the expanding biotech industry, Los Angeles is the place to be. Los Angeles is on the leading edge of several growth industries. There are three public universities located within the city limits: California State University, Los Angeles,

California State University, Northridge and University of California.

Hollywood – is the motion picture capital of the world. It is a district of Los Angeles. Cinema originated in France, but developed in the USA. Early American films were made in New York and Chicago. The Nestor Company built the first motion picture studio in Hollywood in 1911. Hollywood became a center of the motion picture industry because it has a mild, dry climate and a has a variety of natural scenery. The first film studios originated here: Universal Studios, Twentieth Century Fox and Paramount. The first films were silent, The public was fascinated by stars like Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin. The production of sound in films began in the late 1927. Visitors to Hollywood today go to the famous Chinese Theatre to see the footprints and autographs of movie stars. They go down the Walk of Fame, on Hollywood Boulevard to see the golden stars in the sidewalk.

Dialects –

1. The New York City sphere of influence

Though New York shares many important features with Boston and other parts of the Northeast, it is also in many ways a linguistic island, undergoing little influence from the rest of the country and (despite the ubiquity of New York accents on TV and in movies) propagating almost none of its peculiarities to the outside world. Its lack of linguistic influence can be connected to its stigmatization: two surveys in 1950 and the 1990s found that Americans considered New York to have the worst speech in the country. When you visit the New York City area (including neighboring parts of New Jersey and Long Island), be sure to listen for classic New Yorkisms like the deletion of h before u (e.g. huge is pronounced yuge, and Houston becomes Youston) and the rounding of a to an o-like vowel before l in words like ball and call (the same vowel also shows up in words like water, talk, and dog). New Yorkers who don't have a thick local accent may not have these particular features, but they are sure to have other shibboleths like stoop (small front porch or steps in front of a house), on line instead of in line (e.g. we stood on line outside the movie theater for three hours), hero for sub, pie for pizza, and egg cream for a special soft drink made with seltzer water, chocolate syrup, and milk. You can also tell New Yorkers by their pronunciation of Manhattan and forward: they reduce the first vowel in the former (it comes out as Mn-hattan), and delete the first r in the latter (so it sounds like foe-ward). Believe it or not, it is also common in the New York area to pronounce donkey to rhyme with monkey (which makes sense if you consider the spelling), even though they typically aren't aware that they are doing so.

New England

Moving up the coast to New England, we find that most people don't actually sound like the Peppridge Farm man or John F. Kennedy, but they do all use cellar for basement (at least if it's unfinished), bulkhead for the external doors leading out of the cellar, and rotary for what others call a roundabout or traffic circle. New England itself is divided by the Connecticut River into two linguistically distinct areas, Eastern and Western.

2. Eastern New England: Boston

You can hear great Eastern New England speech almost anywhere in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Massachusetts, especially if you stay away from more affluent areas in the bigger cities, but I'll focus here on the Boston area. (Revere, South Boston, Somerville, and Dorchester are traditionally considered to harbor especially thick local accents.) Thanks to park your car in Harvard Yard and Nomar Garciaparra many Americans are familiar with the Boston pronunciation of -ar-, which generally comes out as something very similar to the Southern pronunciation of -ay- (Boston park sounds like Southern pike). The sequence -or- also has an interesting outcome in many words, being pronounced like the vowel in off; for instance, the Boston group LFO in their 1999 song "Summer Girls" rhymed hornet with sonnet. This rhyme also shows that Boston has the cot/caught merger, as we saw earlier; interestingly, though, they distinguish the vowels in father and bother, unlike many Americans. In the domain of vocabulary, be sure to get a frappe (or if you're in Rhode Island, a cabinet), a grinder, harlequin ice cream with jimmies or shots on it, and of course a tonic. (Frappes are milkshakes, harlequin is Neapolitan ice cream, and jimmies and shots are sprinkles.) You might also want to visit a package store (or packie for short) to buy some alcohol, or a spa to buy cigarettes and lottery tickets. There aren't many spas (small independent convenience stores, equivalent to party stores in Michigan, as used in the movie True Romance) left in the area at this point, but you can still find a few that haven't been replaced by 7-11 in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Allston, and Watertown. The towns where you'll hear the best Boston accents (and classic local terms like wicked and pissa) also feature many triple deckers, three-family houses with three front porches stacked on top of one another. These seem to be less common in Connecticut, but if you happen to pass through that area be sure to look out for tag sales (= yard sales). Connecticut is also home to the term sleepy seed for the gunk that collects in the corner of your eye after you've been sleeping; not all Connecticutians have this expression, but your trip will have been worthwhile if you find someone who does.

3. Western New England: Vermont

West of the Connecticut River I recommend you head up to the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont. (I especially recommend the beautiful towns around Lake Memphremagog, like Derby Line and Newport.) Here you'll find the best Canadian features south of the border, thanks to the heavy French Canadian representation in the area, including *toque* (pronounced [tuke]) for 'woolen winter hat' (known as a toboggan in some other parts of the country); *poutine* (pronounced as put + sin, with the stress on sin) for french fries coated with gravy and cheese curds, and sugar pie. This is also the land of the skidoo (= snowmobile), the skidder (giant machine with jaws used to haul logs), and the camp (summer cabin, typically on a body of water). If you're wise enough to visit the Northeast Kingdom, be sure to check out how they pronounce the a and the t in the name of the local town Barton.

4. Pennsylvania

As you head out of the Northeast you should try to stop through Pennsylvania, which is unique among the fifty states in having a significant number of dialect features peculiar to it. Some of these are due to the Pennsylvania Dutch presence in the region (*redd* up 'clean up', *gumband* 'rubber band' (cf. German *Gummi* 'rubber'; now limited to parts of western PA), *toot* 'bag', *rootch* 'scootch up (e.g. in a bed)'); the reasons for the restriction of other terms to Pennsylvania are less clear. To this category belongs *hoagie*, which as we already saw is limited to PA plus the parts of New Jersey in Philadelphia's sphere of influence. Pennsylvania also shows extreme internal diversity: Philadelphia groups with the Northeastern dialects (e.g. in preferring *soda*), whereas Pittsburgh is tied to the Inland North (*pop*), the Midlands (many of my relatives there use the *needs warshed* construction), and the Appalachian region, of which it is the northernmost extremity.

Philadelphia (and its satellites in southern New Jersey) are perhaps best known for their pronunciation of *water*, which comes out as something like *wood + er*. This conveniently shows up in the local term *water ice*, which refers to something between Italian ice and a snow cone. Residents of the Philly sphere of influence are also more likely than other Americans to *bag* school rather than skip school or play hooky. When you make your trip to Philly to hear these choice linguistic tidbits and you run short of money, be sure to ask where the *MAC* machine is, not the *ATM* or cash machine.

You should also make a special effort to visit the opposite end of the state, anchored by the beautiful city of Pittsburgh, which (unknown to most Americans) has its own distinctive dialect. Here the *aw*-sound is replaced by something approaching [ah], as in *dahntahn* for downtown; *ay* similarly loses its *y* in certain situations, as in *Pahrts* for Pirates and *Ahrn City* for Iron City. The

o in this region is very rounded in words like shot, and comes out sounding a lot like the New York vowel in ball. It is also popular to delete the th- at the beginning of unstressed words in certain collocations, such as up 'ere (for up there), like 'at, and 'n 'at (for and that, which western Pennsylvanians are fond of ending sentences with). In terms of vocabulary Pittsburgh and environs have some real whoppers, such as yins or you 'uns, used to address a group of two or more people; jagoff meaning 'a jerk or loser' (shared with Chicagoland); jumbo 'bologna sandwich'; and slippy 'slippery'. These days many Pittsburgh residents don't have the traditional dialect, but you're sure to come across at least a few of the items just discussed. You'll have even better luck if you visit some of the unknown small towns in western PA such as Franklin, Emlenton, and Iron City, which have satisfying variants of the Pittsburgh speech patterns and also happen to be unusually scenic.

5. *Cincinnati*

From Pittsburgh you're in striking distance of Cincinnati, one of the better representatives of the Midlands dialect region. Here instead of inserting r, as we saw in Boston and New York, they insert l: saw comes out as sawl, drawing as drawling, and so on. In the Cincinnati area one can also find drive-through liquor stores (and for some people, regular liquor stores) referred to as pony kegs. (Elsewhere in the U.S., on the other hand, pony keg usually refers to small keg.)

6. *The Rust Belt: Milwaukee*

Moving westward, the next interesting dialect zone is the Inland North or Rust Belt, within which I recommend Milwaukee, Wisconsin (not to be confused with Zilwaukee, Michigan). Here, in the land so eloquently etymologized by Alice Cooper in Wayne's World, you will find— especially if you visit an area where there hasn't been much immigration, such as West Allis— not only the classic speech features identified with the Midwest (as canonized for example in the Da Bears skit on Saturday Night Live), but also features characteristic of areas other than the Midwest (freeway, otherwise associated with the West Coast; bubbler, most familiar from the Boston area; soda, otherwise characteristic of the West and East coasts). Milwaukeeans share some features with the rest of Wisconsin: they pronounce Milwaukee as Mwaukee and Wisconsin as W-scon-sin rather than Wis-con-sin; they refer to annoying Illinoisans as FIB's or fibbers (the full form of which is too saucy to explain here), and they eat frozen custard and butter burgers. They also share some features with the Upper Midwest, notably pronouncing bag as baig and using ramp or parking ramp for 'parking garage' (the same forms surface in Minnesota and Buffalo). Milwaukee is also known for the cannibal sandwich, raw ground sirloin served on dark rye bread and covered with thin-sliced raw onions. Milwaukee

is only an hour and a half drive north of Chicago, yet it lacks many of the classic Chicagoisms, such as jagoff, gaper's block (a traffic jam caused by drivers slowing down to look at an accident or other diversion on the side of the road), black cow (root beer with vanilla ice cream, known elsewhere as a root beer float), expressway, and pop. It also differs from the more northern reaches of Wisconsin with respect to many of the classic Upper Midwestern features so cleverly reproduced in the movie *Fargo*, such as the monophthongal e and o in words like Minnesota and hey there. You can find the occasional inhabitant of Wisconsin's northern border with Minnesota who has Upper Midwest terms like pasties, whipping shitties (driving a car in tight circles, known elsewhere as doing donuts), and hotdish (elsewhere called a casserole), and farmer matches (long wooden matches that light on any surface), but for the most part these are less commonly used than in Minnesota and the Dakotas (and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the case of pasties).

7. The West: the San Fernando Valley

Moving ever westward, we come next to the West Coast. Here it is more difficult to find hardcore traditional dialects, largely because the West was settled relatively recently, and by individuals from a wide variety of different locales; one is hard-pressed to find any Californian (or other Westerner) whose family has been there for more than two generations. Perhaps the best place to start is the San Fernando Valley of California, home of the Valley Girl. Many of the Valley Girl quirks immortalized in Frank Zappa's 1982 song *Valley Girl* and the 1995 film

Clueless are now profoundly out of favor, such as gnarly, barf out, grodie (to the max), gag me with a spoon, rad, for sure, as if, and bitchin', and others are now ubiquitous throughout the U.S., such as totally, whatever, sooo X (as in "that' so like 5 years ago"), and the use of like to report indirect speech or state of mind (I was like, "no way!"). Others are still used in the area but have yet to infiltrate the rest of the country, such as flip a bitch or bust a bitch for 'make a Uturn', baunch for taint (the area between the scrotum and the anus), and bag on in the sense of 'make fun of, diss'. And if you're interested in figuring out whether someone's from northern or southern California, I recommend seeing if they use hella or hecka to mean 'very' (e.g. that party was hella cool; characteristic of northern California), and if they refer to freeway numbers with or without "the" before them (Southern Californians refer to "the 5", "the 405", and so on, whereas northern Californians just use "5" and "405").

The South

Looping back around the country we come finally to the South, which is perhaps the most linguistically distinct and coherent area in the United States. This is not only home to obvious

cases like y'all, initial stress on Thanksgiving, insurance, police, and cement, and the other features mentioned above, but also showcases feeder road (small road that runs parallel to a highway), wrapping (tp'ing), and doodlebug (the crustacean that rolls into a ball when you touch it) in the Houston area, and party barns (drive-through liquor stores) in Texas (bootlegger, brew thru, and beer barn are also common terms for this in the South). The South as a whole differs from the rest of the country in pronouncing lawyer as law-yer, using tea to refer to cold sweet tea, and saying the devil's beating his wife when it rains while the sun is shining (elsewhere referred to as a sunshower, or by no name at all). The South is so different from the rest of the country that almost anywhere you go you will hear a range of great accents, but I especially recommend the Deep South (start with Mississippi or Alabama) and New Orleans.

8. *New Orleans*

Louisiana is famous for the Cajuns, a local group descended from the Acadians, French people who were exiled from Nova Scotia and settled in southern Louisiana in the 1760s. Some Cajuns still speak their own special creole, Cajun French, and this in turn has influenced the English dialect of the region, as can be seen in local expressions such as:

- by my house for 'in/at my place' (e.g. he slept by my house last night), which is claimed to be based on French terms chez moi;
- make dodo meaning 'to sleep', based on Cajun French fais do do;
- make groceries 'do grocery shopping', cf. French faire le marché;
- lagniappe, French for 'a little something extra', e.g. when your butcher gives you a pound and two ounces of hot sausage but only charges you for a pound.

Some of the creole elements that have made their way into the local English dialect may be of African rather than French origin, such as where ya stay (at)? meaning 'where do you live?', and gumbo, referring to a traditional southern soup-like dish, made with a rich roux (flour and butter) and usually including either sea food or sausage. The word gumbo is used in Gullah (an Englishbased creole spoken on the Sea Islands off the Carolina coast) to mean 'okra', and appears to have descended from a West African word meaning 'okra'. The New Orleans dialect of English also includes words drawn from other sources, such as yat (a typical neighborhood New Orleanian), neutral ground (the grassy or cement strip in the middle of the road), po boy (basically a sub sandwich, though it can include fried oysters and other seafood and may be dressed, i.e. include lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, and mayonnaise), hickey (a knot or bump you get on your head when you bump or injure it), and alligator pear (an avocado).

9. *Hawaii*

Last but not least we come to Hawaii, which in many ways is the most interesting of the fifty states linguistically. Many Americans are aware of Hawaiian, the Austronesian language spoken by the indigenous residents of the Hawaiian Islands before the arrival of colonizers from Europe and Japan, but fewer know of the English-based creole that has arisen since that time, known as Hawaiian Pidgin English, Hawaiian Creole English, or just Pidgin. This variety of English is spoken by a fairly large percentage of Hawaiians today, though they tend not to use it around haole (Caucasian) tourists. Pidgin combines elements of all of the languages originally spoken by settlers, including Portuguese (cf. *where you stay go?* meaning ‘where are you going?’, or *I called you up and you weren’t there already* meaning ‘I called you up and you weren’t there yet’), Hawaiian (*haole*, *makapeapea* ‘sleepy seed’, *lanai* ‘porch’, *pau* ‘finished’), Japanese (*shoyu* ‘soy sauce’), and even Californian/Surfer (*dude*, *sweet*, *awesome*, *freeway*). They also have some English expressions all their own, such as *shave ice* ‘snowcone’ and *cockroach* ‘cockroach’. The syntax (word order) of Pidgin differs significantly from that of mainland English varieties, but resembles the English creoles of the Caribbean in important ways, including deletion of the verb *be* in certain contexts (e.g. *if you one girl, no read dis* ‘if you’re a girl, don’t read this’), lack of inversion of the subject and finite verb in questions and subordinate clauses (e.g. *doctah , you can pound my baby?* ‘doctor, can you weigh my baby?’, or *how dey came up wid dat?* ‘how did they come up with that?’), null subjects (e.g. *cannot!* ‘I can’t!’, *get shtrawberry?* ‘do you have strawberry [flavor]?’), and the use of *get* to express existential conditions (‘there is’, ‘there are’), as in *get sharks?* ‘are there sharks [in there]?’.

Plan of the seminars

Every student will have to give presentations (20 minutes) on a chosen topic based on the course material. The presenter has to prepare the presentation in a well-prepared and high quality form. Students should add extra information: historical, cultural or interesting details, pictures, music, videos. Students should prepare notes for the presentation, reading is prohibited. Presentation topics are discussed in the first lecture. The student has to consult the outline of the presentation with the instructor. Finally, the presenter is evaluated by the teacher based on the given requirements. Also, presentation counts 10% of the final grade.

Guidelines for the presentation

- Make a deep inquiry into the background of the terms, approaches and types of the theoretical notions and practical outcomes.
- Provide your own examples
- Organise the information into logical parts
- Give an objective and impartial overview
- Express your critical thinking

Presentation Evaluation Form

Subject Matter	Needs improvement			Excellent	
	1	2	3	4	5
Did the introduction provide sufficient background for you to understand the topic?					
Was the subject matter developed in logical order?					
Given the time constraints, was the topic developed sufficiently?					
Did the summary or conclusion emphasize the significance of the information?					
Did the speaker appear to understand the material?					
Was the speaker enthusiastic about the topic?					

Presentation	Needs improvement			Excellent	
	1	2	3	4	5
Was the presentation logically organized (introduction, body and closing)?					
Was the presentation informative?					
Were the slides easily readable and appropriate for information presented?					
Did the speaker talk loudly and clearly enough to be understood?					
Did the speaker use appropriate language?					
Was correct grammar used in the oral presentation					
Did the speaker use eye contact, gestures, and voice inflections to maintain audience?					
Was the speaker able to present the material without excessive dependence on notes?					
Did the speaker stay within time limit? Was it too short?					