Achievement Scale for Exploring American Life and Language Courses

There are three levels of Exploring American Life and Language. Students are assigned an Exploring American Life and Language course based on their Reading Writing course levels. Please refer to the “Reading Writing Achievement Scale for Levels 1 – 6” for more information. Below are the three Exploring American Life and Language courses. To satisfactorily complete these courses, students must obtain a minimum grade of 75% or higher.

**Beginning Exploring American Life and Language** is a beginning level course. Students in this course are in levels one and two Reading Writing.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast American culture to other cultures
- Demonstrate understanding of American holidays and traditions
- Create and respond to “Yes/No” as well as “Wh-” questions on everyday American cultural topics
- Acquire basic vocabulary that is unique to American holidays and traditions
- Interact with the local community through surveys and interviews

Interpretation: Students in this beginning level course will compare and contrast American culture with other cultures. They will develop basic vocabulary connected with American culture while becoming familiar with American traditions in order to gain confidence in interactions with the local community.

**Intermediate Exploring American Life and Language** is an intermediate level course. Students in this course are in levels three and four Reading Writing.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast American culture to other cultures
- Demonstrate understanding of American holidays, traditions and values
- Describe different American traditions
- Discuss topics about everyday American life
- Initiate, maintain, and conclude conversations about American culture and life
- Incorporate common idiomatic expressions and specialized vocabulary related to cultural topics
- Discuss American current events, professions, and social problems
- Survey and interview native English speakers about American cultural topics
- Present research findings on American cultural topics to a class of peers

Interpretation: Students in this intermediate level course will gain an understanding of similarities and differences between American holidays, traditions, and values with those of other cultures. They will develop vocabulary connected with American cultural topics. They will gain confidence in interactions with the local community by researching and presenting about cultural topics.
Exploring American Life and Language is an advanced level course. Students in this course are in levels five and six Reading Writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Investigate and analyze American cultural topics such as religion, politics, ethnicity, and family and compare with your own culture
- Research the origins and reasons for various American cultural practices and beliefs
- Compare, analyze and evaluate different points of view regarding American cultural topics
- Communicate effectively and objectively about cultural differences
- Conduct cross-cultural interviews, surveys, and polls
- Deliver effective oral presentations on research findings with respect to American cultural topics
- Debate contemporary controversial topics
- Acquire relevant vocabulary and idiomatic phrases to discuss sensitive cultural topics

Interpretation: Students in this advanced level course will think critically about controversial American cultural topics through research. They will gain confidence in discussing, debating, and presenting on sensitive American cultural topics. They will also learn academic and complex vocabulary and idioms connected with American cultural topics.

To satisfactorily complete these courses, students must obtain a minimum grade of 75% or higher.