

LIU Post Au Pair Program Course Descriptions (all courses are worth 36 hours of study which is equivalent to 3 credits)

All of these courses are not offered every semester. Please refer to the registration site for availability

ACTING AMERICAN! (John Canfora)

This weekend course is designed for students to have fun with improvised acting in a variety of situations from everyday American life. Students will learn in a relaxed environment, the principles of improvisation, the everyday speech and idioms of Americans, and the subtle customs of modern American life.

AMERICA AND THE WORLD (John Canfora)

We will share how the students' preconceptions of life in the U.S. have matched up with their experiences of living here. We will view various clips and interviews with a variety of viewpoints from people from different cultures as well as scenes from documentaries, television, and film about how Americans look at their nation's place in the world. There will be a short paper in which the student will explore how which views they think come closest to the "truth" of America.

AMERICAN ENGLISH IN THE ARTS (John Canfora)

This course discusses the unique idioms, diction, and rhythms that make great American writers' voices from Mark Twain to Taylor Swift unique from other English writers and speakers throughout the world.

AMERICAN ENGLISH VS. BRITISH ENGLISH (Lisa Pulitzer)

Did you know that there are many English accents and dialects? In Great Britain, there's the "King's English," which is considered an upper-class accent. There are also Scottish, Welsh, and Irish accents, and these change regionally as you travel around. The same holds true in the United States, where we have four distinct dialects; New York City, Midwestern, Southern and New England but since America is so big, there are dozens more variations. In this fun and interactive course, taught by American Lisa Pulitzer and Brit, Donna Varon, you will learn the similarities and differences between American English and British English. You will discover that even though we are all speaking English, we use different words, and words have different meanings. We will also learn about American traditions and how to seamlessly assimilate into the culture. Join us for an informative and interesting weekend. Students will hear from two English speakers with very different accents and come to understand the two dialects through fun written and oral quizzes, TV and movie clips and more. Don't miss it!

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (Stephen Wolf)

This course explores the events and influences that formed the United States, a nation unique in the world, for it is a nation made from other nations. From the original thirteen colonies' war for independence, which established the world's first democracy, to its eminent position among all nations today, a new kind of country evolved, one made of extraordinary diversity, contradictions, struggles, and accomplishments. This country is best understood through the voices of its people expressed by writers, musicians, and artists, and their creations—along with the students' own visions and views—reveal the inspiring, often harrowing story of the American Experience.

CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY (Angela Gigliotti)

As the saying goes, “The best camera is the one that’s with you”. Mobile photography is beloved by pros and amateurs alike. This course teaches you how to get the most out of your smartphone camera with tips and best practices. Studying the work of master photographers as inspiration, the course will cover common digital photography terms and concepts, basic design and composition rules, and how to use your smartphone camera settings. Time will be given to put into practice what you learn with photo shooting assignments, discussions, and critiques. Students will need a smartphone for the course.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT DIVERSE LEARNERS (Nicole D’Antonio)

The course will examine the various ways children learn, from birth through adolescence. The students will come to understand the processes of a wide spectrum of learners from those with learning challenges to the gifted population. The course will acquaint you with the characteristics of diverse learners, including the Visual Learner, the Verbal Learner and the Auditory Learner. We will also explore special education areas such as Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, and the Gifted and Talented. Lectures, discussions, group work and other activities that exemplify an asset approach to learning will be explored.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT: PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE AND PSYCHOSOCIAL (Nicole D’Antonio)

The course will follow the physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development of children from birth through adolescence. Theories of leading child psychologists, such as Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky and Howard Gardner, are part of the coursework. Fun and engaging activity ideas to support a child’s mental and physical health will be shared. Informative lectures, intriguing research, videos, and hands-on activities provide a holistic approach to child development.

CRIME & JUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD (Michael Blitz)

How do different societies and cultures determine what is or is not a *crime*? Does *justice* mean the same thing around the world? How do different societies decide how to *punish* crimes most effectively? Are punishments necessarily a form of justice? What happens when a person does something that is a crime in one country and not a crime in his or her home country? We will consider these, and other issues related to crime and punishment across diverse societies and cultures. Students will consider several dramatic legal cases from the U.S. and elsewhere and analyze the ways in which different criminal justice systems address both crime and the punishment of criminals.

DIGITAL MARKETING FOR BUSINESS: AN INTRODUCTION (Brian Shields)

Though the study and practice of real online scenarios, students learn how online businesses apply strategic online tactics to increase revenue, drive traffic and provide respective consumers with a service or information. This course provides an understanding of the internet and online business, as well as a wide variety of internet operations, such as search engine optimization, search engine marketing, email marketing, customer relationship management, promotions, viral marketing, networking and other innovative strategies.

EDUCATION AND TEACHING AS A CAREER (Marina Costanzo)

This course is designed for those who want to become teachers or have interest in the field of education. In this course you will receive an overview in the profession of teaching. Becoming a teacher means making a difference in the lives of children and shaping them into the adults they'll become with lessons that will last a lifetime. Find out if this is the profession for you! In this course, you will take a personality traits test, and engage in mock teaching all weekend. This is a fun, interactive and dynamic course!

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) (Marina Costanzo)

The Au Pair ESL Course is designed for au pairs of all language proficiency levels to improve their spoken and written English skills while learning about American culture and customs. The instructor will provide conversation practice, grammar instruction, and group interaction utilizing an engaging and easy-to-follow ESL text that highlights important topics in American Culture.

ENGLISH SKILLS FOR CAREER SUCCESS (Lisa Pulitzer)

This is a career development course that provides detailed strategies for communicating your knowledge, skills, education, and abilities to future employers. In this course, students will practice English writing and conversation skills by writing cover letters and resumes as well as practicing interviewing techniques. Students will practice nonverbal communication such as eye contact and posture. They will discover how to approach answering questions and staying on topic, as well as professional vocabulary relevant to the appropriate working environment.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ETHICS (Peter Hayes)

This course introduces how you can start your own business and manage it to success. We will explore the advantages and disadvantages of being an entrepreneur and ideas on how to plan, organize, and manage a new business, and how to do this while practicing proper ethics. This class will also show you how to use modern technology, such as ChatGPT and LinkedIn, to help build resumes, relationships, and more. The future is here. Let's use it for success.

LET'S READ TOGETHER! (Jennie Yi)

The main task of au pairs is to take care of and play with children. Au pairs are in a unique position to develop relationships with the host family, learn new cultures, and share their home culture. In order to make the time spent with the children, the course offers a list of books and literature that American children are familiar with, how to read and share books with the children, and how to use the literature to share their own culture. The course is fun and engaging, and we look to explore many cultural features that are both unique and common.

MINDFULNESS AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH (Angela Gigliotti)

During this course, you will engage in activities and guided instruction in mindfulness meditation techniques to reduce anxiety, manage stress, sleep more soundly, and create self-care routines. These meditation and mindfulness tools will help you create life-changing habits to support your well-being and find a healthier, happier you.

PERSONAL FINANCE (Jennie Yi)

Managing personal finances are key to one's future financial success. This course presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real-world financial issues. Students will learn how to develop budgets, set goals, build credit, be an informed consumers, and how to save and invest to meet their goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and effectively use income to achieve personal financial success.

POPULAR MUSIC (Angela Gigliotti)

This course will enhance your understanding of the music you already know, as well as introduce you to less familiar styles and genres. You will develop critical listening skills as we survey several popular musical genres including, Pop, Rock, Blues, Hip-hop/Rap, Electronic Dance Music (EDM), Country, R&B/Soul, and Indie/Alternative with a focus on development, history, and styles.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BUSINESS (Brian Shields)

Social networks such as Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and LinkedIn have become popular platforms for brands and people to connect and communicate directly with one another. In business, these platforms are essential to selling products and services and reaching customers. Students will learn about various networks, apps, and marketing and branding techniques, to create a dynamic communications plan for digital platforms in the United States.

TOEFL: REVIEW AND PREPARATION (Elina Yasinov)

This course is designed for au pairs who wish to improve their TOEFL test taking skills. The purpose of this course is focused on the four language skills tested on the exam: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. During the course, students will develop specific strategies to address each skill on the test and will be exposed to the format of the exam.

WRITING POWER (Stephen Wolf)

“Writing Power” is a weekend-long workshop that reviews and expands the students’ writing skills. Few tools are more essential for success than the ability to write clearly and correctly, so the course will review basic grammar rules, demonstrate methods to write clear sentences organized into paragraphs, and the making of a good essay. Students will strengthen their knowledge of the difficulties and contradictions of American English, how to effectively use figurative and symbolic language, and develop the crucial care in proof-reading their own writing. Regardless of the student’s writing ability, the course will significantly improve their power to write well.

The LIU Post Cultural Education and Au Pair Program awards certificates of completion in several areas of study. A certificate conforms successful completion of two courses (72 hours) within our program.

The following certificates are currently offered:

English Study

Take any two of the following courses and receive a certificate in English Study

- TOEFL Preparation/Review
- American English vs. British English
- Writing Power
- American English in the Arts
- English Skills for Career Success
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

Business Marketing

Take any two of the following courses and receive a certificate in Business Marketing

- Social Media for Business
- Digital Marketing for Business - An Introduction
- Entrepreneurship and Business Management and Ethics
- Personal Finance

Child Development

Take any two of the following courses and receive a certificate in Child Development

- In-Depth Look at Diverse Learners
- Physical, Cognitive and Psychosocial
- Let's Read Together

Certificates are given in addition to your course completion certificate