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# 美剧与美国社会文化

## American TV Drama and Its Society

王琳梅 秦晓星 ©主编 .....



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

# 美剧与美国社会文化

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# Preface

教育部高等教育司发布的《大学英语课程教学要求》中提到,“大学英语课程不仅是一门语言基础课程,也是拓宽知识、了解世界文化的素质教育课程,兼有工具性和人文性。因此,设计大学英语课程时也应当充分考虑对学生的文化素质培养和国际文化知识的传授。”

近些年,看美剧不仅在高校学生中成为一种新时尚,而且也成为继《新概念》、《走遍美国》、英美电影、VOA及BBC新闻英语后,高校学生学习英语的一种新方式。美剧的确是学习英语的一种很好的材料。从增加语言知识和提高语言技能的角度上说,看美剧可以增加词汇量,提高听力技能;从了解目的语国家文化的角度看,美剧题材广泛、贴近生活、对话量大,并且对话充斥着习惯用法和美国人独有的思维方式,因此看美剧能帮助学生了解目的语国家的生活、文化、风俗和思维方式,学到真正能用来交际的英语。不仅如此,通过看美剧学习语言,形式生动、活泼,不会枯燥无趣,有助于保持并提高学生学习语言的兴趣。

但是,在海量的美剧面前,如何选择并有效利用以促进英语的学习,对许多人而言,是很茫然的事情。因此,编写组四位老师结合大学英语学习目标和大学生的兴趣,针对一些热点社会问题,考虑语言及反映的社会、文化问题等两方面,从近些年受关注及获奖的美剧中挑选了适合作为语言学习材料的13部美剧作为素材,共观看了约七百集,从中剪辑并精心挑选了12个视频,作为教材编写的视频素材。在此基础上,又从语言学习及文化素养培养的角度精心设计、编写了本教材,内容丰富、实用。

## 本教程有以下特点:

1. **培养综合技能:** 本教材不仅旨在全面提高学生基本语言技能,还引导学生从社会学的角度剖析、比较并了解中美两国社会问题及文化背景等,拓宽知识面,更深入地了解目的语国家社会及文化,并进一步加深对祖国文化的理解,为成为国际型人才打好基础。就语言技能而言,听、说、读、写、译五项技能全部覆盖;就社会文化而言,以英国社会学家 Anthony Giddens 的 *Sociology* 目录为基础,覆盖了美国社会的12个主要方面。

2. **语言材料地道真实:** 中国学生学习英语的语言环境匮乏,如何创造地道真实的语境一直是学者和一线教师努力的目标。本教材视频材料取材于反映美国文化生活的美国电视剧,保证了语言的地道性、真实性。

3. **选材丰富、有趣味:** 本教材从学生的兴趣和需要出发编写。编者选择的视频材料功能、风格丰富,有正式场合如总统的就职演说,有日常生活的家长里短,有紧张的恐怖袭击,

## 美剧与美国社会文化

有搞笑的人际交往片段等等。

### 本教材结构及单元每部分要求:

本教材共12单元,每单元包括六部分:

#### 1) Part I : Story Exploration

本部分以泛听为主,熟悉视频主要内容(人物关系、主要故事情节等)。

#### 2) Part II : Language Appreciation

本部分以精听为主,学习地道美语表达。在语言输入的基础上,通过配音、表演等模仿活动,提高并完善语音、语调等发音技能。

#### 3) Words and Expressions

为方便学生学习,本部分罗列了本单元视频出现的生词及专有名称,并配有音标及例句。

#### 4) Part III : Culture and Society Focus

就本单元视频反映的社会问题,本部分提供了相关资料,学生首先进行阅读,了解相关信息并熟悉相关表达;接下来通过有关该话题的口语活动,深入探讨此社会问题,并口头表达出自己的想法。

#### 5) Part IV : Writing

本部分要求学生围绕口语活动探讨的话题,进行写作练习。

依据作文的成文顺序,编者在各章分别给出 **Functional Sentence Patterns**, 比如如何写议论文的开头、主体和结尾等,引导学生以清晰的思路、丰富的表达进行写作。

#### 6) Additional Information

本部分提供与该美剧或演员相关的信息,提高学生学习兴趣。

本教材由四位中国海洋大学从事大学英语教学一线工作多年的老师通力合作编写而成。其中王琳梅负责编写第二、九及十一单元,秦晓星负责编写第七、八、十二单元,管云秋负责编写第一、四、五单元,苑晓鹤负责编写第六、十单元,第三单元由王琳梅、秦晓星共同编写。

本教材的编写工作得到了中国海洋大学外国语学院英语二系王慧敏主任的大力支持和鼓励。除此之外,在素材搜集、视频编辑及课件制作等方面,还得到很多人的支持和帮助:中国海洋大学2009级港口航道海岸工程专业本科生于丹同学为编写组提供了20部(约150G)美剧视频;潘梦寒先生、张兴斌先生、王英杰先生和王向进先生为编写组提供了技术上的支持。

在他们的帮助下,编写组得以高效、顺利地完成编写工作,在此致以诚挚的感谢。

鉴于各种原因,书中难免有纰漏,望使用者和老师们不吝赐教!

编者

2012年7月

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# Unit 1

## Immigration

In this unit, you will:

- watch video clips from *Ugly Betty*;
- understand the lines from it;
- learn something about *immigration*;
- learn some expressions on *introducing a topic (I)*.

### Part I Story Exploration

#### Section A Character Introduction

Background:

**Mode:** a trendy, high fashion magazine that is part of the publishing empire of the wealthy Bradford Meade.

**Bradford:** father of Daniel Meade. Bradford and Wilhelmina are getting married.

**Daniel:** Betty's boss, Editor-in-Chief of Mode magazine.

**Dwayne:** Wilhelmina's bodyguard.

**Hilda:** Betty's sister, who makes a living by selling weight-loss products of Herbalux.

Characters that will appear in this video clip:



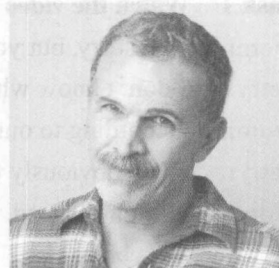
Wilhelmina



Betty



Hilda



Ignacio

Watch the video clip, and tell what you know about Ignacio.

Betty's father,

### Section B Story Retelling

Watch the video clip again, then work in pairs and retell the story with the help of the following questions.

1. What does the social worker tell about Betty's father?
2. According to the lawyer, how serious is the problem? What are they supposed to do about it?
3. What are Betty and her sister doing at home? What irritates the father?
4. Why does Betty's father never apply for a green card or begin a citizenship process?
5. Why does Hilda say they have to make some serious cutbacks?
6. What is the deal between Wilhelmina and Betty?
7. What is the end of the story?

## Part II Language Appreciation

### Section A Language Input

**Task 1** Watch the video clip twice and fill in the missing information (one blank for one word).

**Woman:** I'm sorry, but your father's not \_\_\_\_\_.

**Betty:** I don't know what you're talking about.

**Woman:** According to our \_\_\_\_\_, Ignacio Suarez is 117 years old... and dead.

**Betty:** Well, obviously that's a mistake.

**Woman:** Not on our end. The \_\_\_\_\_ your father's been using belongs to somebody else.

**Hilda:** Betty... We have to make some serious \_\_\_\_\_. The pharmacy wouldn't fill his \_\_\_\_\_ today.

**Betty:** What? Maria Ortiz...she can't do that. She knows he needs his \_\_\_\_\_ to work. He has arrhythmia. He could die.

**Hilda:** It wasn't Maria. It's his H.M.O. They're not gonna \_\_\_\_\_.

**All:** I hereby \_\_\_\_\_ that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign \_\_\_\_\_, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a \_\_\_\_\_ or citizen.

**Justin:** Gwyneth's wearing white to the wedding? That is such a bitch slap.

**All:** That I will support and defend the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States of America against all enemies, enemy: foreign and domestic, that I will \_\_\_\_\_ and allegiance to the same.

**Task 2 Watch the video clip, and get the English expressions for the following Chinese phrases or sentences.**

出生证明	
使经历……	
勒紧裤腰带	
充分运用时间	
减肥	
撕掉	
初恋	
支持	
脱身,逃脱	

**Task 3 Translate the following lines into English, pay special attention to the parts in color, and then watch the video clip and check.**

1. Betty: 他可能会被遣返?

Man: 是的,很有可能。

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 鉴于你们提供的信息来看,你们的父亲正处于紧要关头。

\_\_\_\_\_

3. 政府正在调查,而最后,法官可能会判定将你遣返墨西哥。

\_\_\_\_\_



4. 那时我正忙着养家糊口。

## Section B Language Output

Watch video clips in this section, and then choose one clip to dub or role play.

Clip 1: Betty—Hilda—Ignacio—lawyer

Clip 2: Betty—Hilda—Ignacio

Clip 3: Betty—Wilhelmina

## Words and Expressions

### Words

deport	[di'pɔ:t]	vt.	驱逐出境;持……举止
ultimately	['ʌltimitli]	adv.	最后,最终
amnesty	['æmnesti]	n.	大赦,特赦
probono			【拉】为慈善机构和穷人提供的免费专业服务
fiber	['faibə]	n.	纤维(物质)
retainer	[ri'teinə]	n.	(律师、顾问等的)聘金
grand	[grænd]	n.	一千美元
validate	['vælideit]	vt.	使生效;证实,确认,验证
certificate	[sə'tifikit]	n.	执照,证(明)书
passport	['pɑ:s,pɔ:t]	n.	护照
naked	['neikid]	adj.	裸体的
document	['dɒkjumənt]	n.	文件,公文,文档
tease	[ti:z]	v.	戏弄
hook	[huk]	n.	钩,钩状物;勾拳
heel	[hi:l]	n.	脚后跟
chef	[ʃef]	n.	厨师
vow	[vau]	v.	发誓
prescription	[pris'kripʃən]	n.	处方,药方;对策
visa	['vi:zə]	n.	签证
loyalty	['lɔiəlti]	n.	忠诚
oath	[əuθ]	n.	誓言,誓约
renounce	[ri'nauns]	v.	声明放弃,与……断绝关系
abjure	[əb'dʒuə]	v.	发誓弃绝,公开放弃

allegiance	[ə'li:dʒəns]	n.	忠诚,效忠
fidelity	[fi'deləti]	n.	忠实,忠诚
sovereignty	['sɒvrənti]	n.	主权,独立国
slap	[slæp]	n.	侮辱;掴;拍击声
constitution	[ˌkɒnsti'tju:ʃən]	n.	宪法;组织;体质
domestic	[də'mestik]	adj.	家庭的;国内的;驯养的

### Phrases and Idioms

tighten one's belt: to spend less than one did before because one has less money 勒紧裤腰带

—I've had to tighten my belt since I stopped working full-time.

set up: to establish in business by providing capital, equipment, or other backing; to prepare 资助;为……做准备

—His father's money left Jim well set up for life.

off the hook: to be proven not guilty of something; to escape one's responsibility or duty 逃脱, 脱身

—You think god will let you off the hook?

hold all the cards: to have all the advantages in a situation in which people are competing or arguing 处于非常强势(或有利)的位置

—“There's not much we can do. They seem to hold all the cards,” said Dan gloomily.

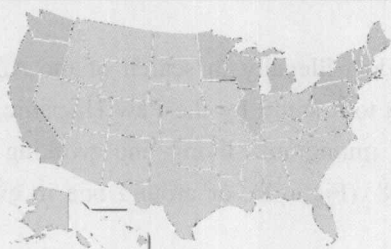
### Proper Names

Herbalux: a health supplement company 保健品公司

H.M.O.: short for health maintenance organization 医保机构

## Part III Culture and Society Focus

### Immigration in the U.S.



#### Immigration Terms

#### US Immigration Facts and Statistics

#### Illegal Immigration Facts and Statistics

#### Reasons of Immigration

#### Pros and Cons of Immigration

In this video clip, Ignacio is an illegal immigrant. According to this clip:

- Why did he immigrate illegally?
- What might happen to an illegal immigrant?

### Immigration Terms

Immigration (derived from Latin: migratio) is the act of foreigners passing or coming into a country for the purpose of permanent residence. Familiarize with the following terms: “immigrant,” “illegal immigrant” and “undocumented immigrant.”

- Immigrant—a person who leaves one country to settle permanently in another after being granted permission to do so by the government.
- Illegal immigrant—an alien (non-citizen) who has entered the United States without government permission or stayed beyond the termination date of a visa. This person is sometimes referred to as an *undocumented immigrant*.

### US Immigration Facts and Statistics

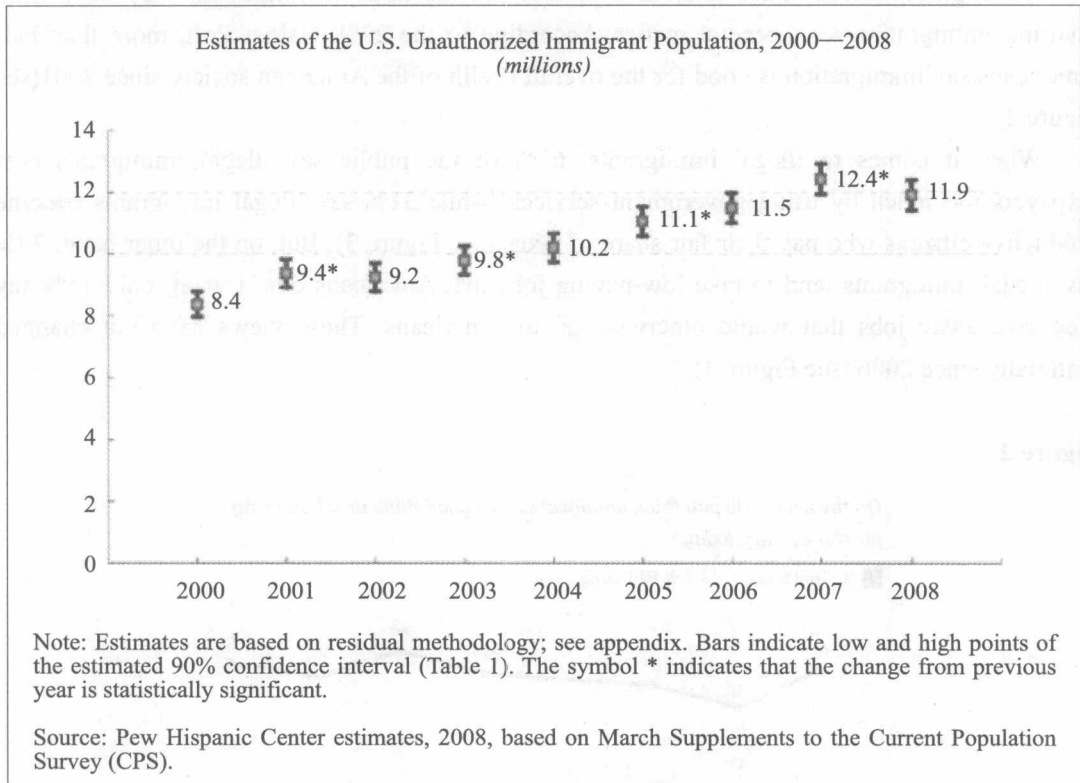
Immigration has played an important role in shaping the United States of America. It is estimated that an average of 104,000 foreigners arrive each day in the United States. About 2,000 unauthorized foreigners a day settle in the United States. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of foreign-born US residents almost doubled from 20 million to 40 million, while the US population rose from almost 250 million to 310 million.

The leading countries of origin of immigrants to the United States were Mexico, India, the Philippines, and China, as is shown in the following table.

Rank	Country	2010	Percentage
1	Mexico	9,600,000	23.70
2	China	1,900,000	4.70
3	Philippines	1,700,000	4.20
4	India	1,610,000	4.00
5	Vietnam	1,200,000	3.00

### Illegal Immigration Facts and Statistics

Each year millions of people cross the U.S. borders illegally in search of the American dream—a land of freedom and opportunity. According to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center based on government figures, the number of illegal immigrants living and working in the country lies somewhere between 11—12 million (2008) (Figure1), or around one in every 20 workers. Other estimates range from 7 to 20 million.

**Figure 1**

### Reasons of Immigration

Immigrants come to America for many reasons. Family reunification accounts for approximately two-thirds of permanent immigration to the United States each year. Other possible factors include:

- Seeking employment or improved financial position,
- Searching for better educational resources,
- Seeking freedom (Escaping from dictatorship, religious persecution, frequent abuse, oppression, ethnic cleansing and even genocide, and risks to civilians during war,)
- Evasion of criminal justice (e.g. avoiding arrest),
- Dramatic decrease in travel time and costs between the 18th and early 20th century,
- Transnational marriage,
- Lack of immigration law enforcement,
- Illegal immigration amnesty and birth right citizenship.



Pros and Cons of Immigration

Although Americans have a divided opinion on the issue of migration, they have been favoring immigration as a general matter. According to the 2008 Gallup Poll, more than half Americans say immigration is good for the overall health of the American society since 2001(see Figure 2).

When it comes to illegal immigrants, 63% of the public say illegal immigrants cost taxpayers too much by using government services, while 31% say illegal immigrants become productive citizens who pay their fair share of taxes (see Figure 3). But, on the other hand, 79% say illegal immigrants tend to take low-paying jobs that Americans don't want, only 15% say they take away jobs that would otherwise go to Americans. These views have not changed materially since 2006 (see Figure 4).

Figure 2

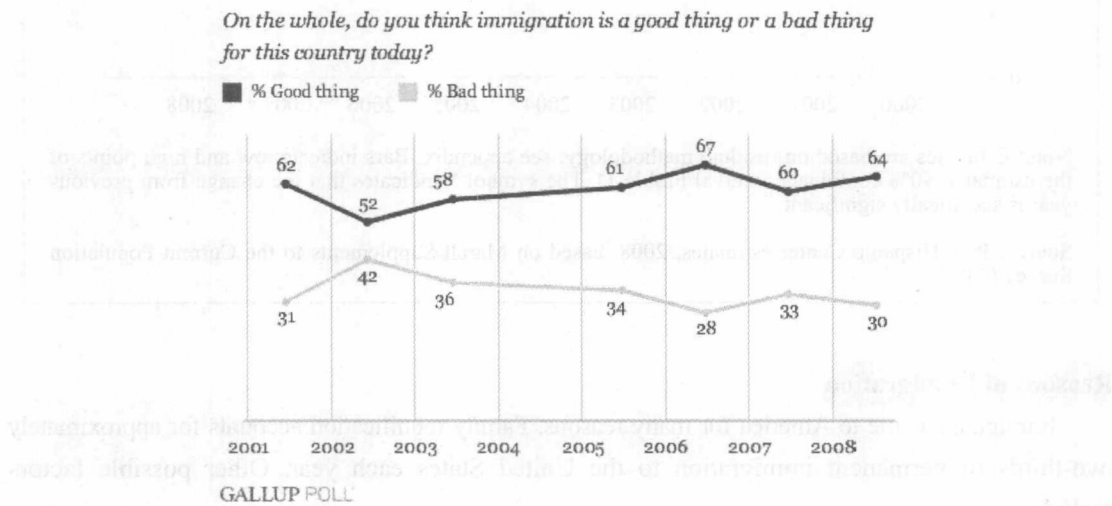


Figure 3

