



TRAVAIL DE MATURITE 2021-2022 : Proposition de thème

Titre : CONSPIRACY THEORIES in the USA

1. BRANCHE(S) CONCERNEE(S) : Anglais
2. Prof. responsable(s): Sharon Reidy Miller (REIS)
3. Thème du séminaire: Language, Society and Belief: Conspiracy Theories in the USA

3.1 Bref résumé de la problématique :

Alternative facts or falsehoods? Many people in the USA are drawn to conspiracy theories, perhaps more nowadays than in the recent past. How do researchers define the term Conspiracy Theory and explain its success in certain populations? Are people influenced by the language used to promote these theories? What is the impact and the consequence of such beliefs? The goal of this *Travail de Maturité* is to better understand the current conflict between those who believe in a particular conspiracy theory and those who do not.

3.2 Propositions de sujets pour les travaux inclus dans ce thème :

- Global warming (environment)
- Donald Trump and/or US elections (politics)
- Covid-19/vaccines (public health)
- Space/aliens/the moon landing (science & technology)
- Propagation of conspiracy theories (media)
- Psychology behind conspiracy theories

4. Considérations méthodologiques:

You will focus on Conspiracy Theory from a scientific point of view, including research into the idea of belief, the use of specific language, and the American society. You will read specialist articles in books and academic journals to explain different theories which are presented, supply your own examples and finally discuss and draw your conclusions based on the gathered information. If you choose to do a survey, your data will be collected and discussed.

5. Compétences requises et / ou intérêts souhaités chez l'élève : Compétences requises et / ou intérêts souhaités chez l'élève :

Your *Travail de Maturité* will be written in English and all group/individual meetings will be held in English. You should also be comfortable understanding real examples from interviews, newspapers, social media, etc., therefore, you are expected to have a strong 5 average in English and be motivated to use it on a regular basis.