

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to American Culture, PG_00177247						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject			2025/2026	
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group			Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study	
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery			at the university	
Year of study	1		Language of instruction			English	
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits			3.0	
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form			credit	
Conducting unit	Division of American Studies -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Grzegorz Welizarowicz				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		43.0	75
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to introduce students to the basic issues in American Studies and the main distinctive features of American culture, and to outline a broad framework for understanding American diversity and the complexities and contradictions that characterise the United States.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERL3_W07] Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues concerning cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has advanced detailed knowledge of the specificity of American cultural studies and the main distinctive features of American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present day.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_K04] is ready to follow contemporary cultural and literary trends in North America and to actively participate in cultural life.	Is ready to follow the main contemporary trends that distinguish North American culture and to participate in cultural life as a recipient of American culture.	[SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_U07] Is able to prepare written work and oral presentations in English, including using specialized terminology in cultural and religious sciences and literary studies.	Is able to prepare written work in English on selected distinctive features of American culture, using appropriately selected specialist terminology from cultural studies.	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_W09] Knows and understands to an advanced degree contemporary cultural trends in the US.	Knows and understands to an advanced degree selected trends that distinguish contemporary US culture.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_W05] Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus of cultural and religious studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has a basic knowledge of the conceptual and terminological apparatus of cultural studies applicable to the description of the distinctive features of American culture from the pre-Columbian period to the present day.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_W01] Knows and understands to an advanced degree selected issues that constitute basic general knowledge of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Knows and understands to an advanced degree the specificity of American cultural studies and the main distinctive features of American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present day, constituting the basic general knowledge of American cultural studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_U01] is able to properly select sources and search, analyze, evaluate, select and integrate information from them, interpret and draw conclusions, especially in relation to issues concerning cultural phenomena and processes in North America and American literature.	Is able to select sources and draw conclusions appropriately while preparing a basic research project on the main distinctive features of American culture based on the literature and own observations.	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_U06] Able to communicate orally and in writing on issues related to American and British culture and literature, using specialized terminology in cultural and religious studies and literary studies.	Is able to communicate about the specifics of cultural American studies and the main distinctive features of American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present day using appropriate specialised terminology in cultural and religious studies.	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	Introduction to the concept of culture and the methodology of cultural studies. Introduction to the specificity of American studies and the main assumptions of the discipline, terminology and theoretical models. Introduction to the issues of American Indian culture, founding cultural texts, American myths and imagery, American exceptionalism, issues of multiculturalism and ethnic cultures, the Melting Pot phenomenon and other metaphors of American identity, racial relations, American religiosity, and others. Analysis of sample cultural texts and critical proposals.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	tests	51.0%	50.0%
	final paper	51.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Campbell, Neill and Alasdair Kean. <i>American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture</i>. Routledge. 2012. de Crevecoeur, St. John What is an American? Denning, Michael <i>The Cultural Front</i>. Douglass, Frederic The Composite Nation Dunbar Ortiz, Roxanne. <i>An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States</i>. Beacon Press, 2014. Gołębiowski, Marek. <i>Dzieje Kultury Stanów Zjednoczonych</i>. PWN. 2007. Grandin, Greg <i>The End of the Myth</i> Hannah-Jones, Nicole. <i>Project 1619</i>. Kennedy, John F. The New Frontier Luce, Henry The American Century Mann, Charles C. 1491 OSullivan, John The Great Nation of Futurity Sollors, Werner . <i>Beyond Ethnicity: Consent and Descent in American Culture</i>. Consent and Descent, Melting Pot Todorov, Tzvetan. <i>The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other</i> . Richard Howard, trans. Harper Torchbooks. New York, 1987. (3-50)
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	Supplementary literature	Barry, Peter. Beginning Theory : An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory. 2nd ed. ed., Manchester ; New York:Manchester University Press,2002. Bigsby, C. W. E. The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture. Vol. Cambridge companions to culture Cambridge, UK ; New York:Cambridge University Press, 2006. Breidlid, Anders. American Culture : An Anthology. 2nd ed. ed., New York: Routledge, 2008. Browne, Ray B., and Pat. Browne. Digging Into Popular Culture : Theories and Methodologies in Archeology, Anthropology, and Other Fields.Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1991. Browne, Ray B., and Pat. Browne. The Guide to United States Popular Culture. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green State University Popular Press,2001. Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. Loaded: Disarming the Second Amendment. City Lights, 2018. Leitch, Vincent B. The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism.1st ed ed., New York: Norton, 2001. Lewis, Pierce. "America's Natuiral Landscapes". Welizarowicz, Grzegorz. American Indian Epistemology in Deborah A. Mirandas Bad Indians. Beyond Philology. 15/4. 2018. 117-156. Welizarowicz, Grzegorz. Feel like a Gringo: Transnational Consciousness in Los Angeles Punk Rock Songs. Polish Journal for American Studies. 12. 2018. 55-74. and others.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What is culture?, American Indians, pre-Colombian America, Columbus and his legacy, Settler society, Foundational texts and images, competing narratives in American culture, American Exceptionalism, Thanksgiving, <i>Declaration of Independence</i> , Ethnic America, Consent and Descent, Nation of immigrants, Melting Pot, Race relations	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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