

Subject card

Subject name and code	Modernism and Postmodernism in American Literature classes, PG_00177253						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027	
Education level	Master'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	2		Language of instruction			English	
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits			4.0	
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 hab. Arkadiusz Misztal				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	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		68.0	100
Subject objectives	The objectives of the course are: - to acquaint students with the history of American modernist and postmodernist literature and its ideological foundations; - to develop the ability to analyse and interpret literary texts of American modernism and postmodernism.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_U01] Student is able to use methods and tools appropriate to literary studies and cultural and religious studies to innovatively perform analytical and interpretive tasks concerning phenomena and processes in American literature and culture.	Is able to use methods and tools specific to literary studies to innovatively perform analytical and interpretive tasks concerning the literature of American modernism and postmodernism.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K01] Student is ready to critically assess the extent of her/his knowledge and skills, especially in the fields of American literature and cultural studies, contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	Is prepared to critically evaluate the extent of his/her knowledge and skills in the literature of American modernism and postmodernism.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_K09] Student is ready to observe, develop and disseminate the principles of ethics in the performance of tasks related to the program of study, in research work in the field of American literature and cultural studies, and in professional work.	Is ready to adhere to, develop and disseminate ethical principles in the framework of research work in the field of American modernist and postmodernist literature.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_U05] Student is able to communicate with diverse audiences on specialized topics concerning literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America, using advanced terminology in literary and cultural and religious studies.	Is able to communicate with diverse audiences on specialist topics relating to the literature of American modernism and postmodernism, using advanced terminology in literary studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_U06] Student is able to conduct a debate on American literature, culture and society, present and evaluate different opinions and positions and discuss them.	Is able to conduct a debate on American literature of modernism and postmodernism, present and critically evaluate different opinions and positions on literary phenomena and processes (K_U06)	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_K05] Student is ready to inspire and organize activities for the dissemination of knowledge of American literature and culture and to popularize attitudes of tolerance and openness towards other cultures.	Is ready to disseminate and popularize knowledge of American literature of modernism and postmodernism while maintaining openness to different views and showing tolerance towards other cultures.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_W05] Student knows and comprehensively understands advanced terminology in literary studies applicable to the study of American literature.	Knows and understands thoroughly advanced terminology in literary studies applicable to the study of American modernist and postmodernist literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_W07] Student knows and comprehensively understands selected topics representing advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues in American literature.	Knows and understands in depth selected topics constituting advanced specific knowledge of American modernist and postmodernist literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K06] Student is ready to actively participate in literary, cultural and artistic life.	Is ready to participate in literary life as an active and informed recipient of American modernist and postmodernist literature.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
Subject contents	- Imagism and early modernism of Pound and Eliot - early modernism and the prose of the "Lost Generation" (Anderson, Stein, Barnes, Scott Fitzgerald, Hemingway) - Modernist experiment in prose (Thomas Wolfe, Dos Passos, Faulkner, H. Miller, West) - "Harlem Renaissance" (Hughes, McCoy, Toomer, Hurston) - modernist poetry (Stevens, Williams, Moore, H.D., Frost) - Postmodern prose (Nabokov, Barth, Gaddis, Pynchon, Coover, D. Barthelme, Vonnegut, De Lillo) - postmodernism in African-American literature and ethnic literatures - postmodern drama - postmodern poetry (Black Mountain, New York School, LANGUAGE)		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	none		

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	report on the latest literary developments published on the Institute website	51.0%	10.0%
	debate/ class discussion	51.0%	20.0%
	written assignment	51.0%	30.0%
	test pisemny	51.0%	40.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Lauter, Paul (ed.). The Heath Anthology of American Literature. Vols. A,B, and C. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Baym, Nina (ed.). The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Vols. 1-2, Norton, 2007. Novels, short stories and dramas Sherwood Anderson, selected short stories Francis Scott Fitzgerald, title indicates Leading(s). Ernst Hemingway, title indicates Instructor(s). William Faulkner, title indicates Instructor/s. Donald Barthelme, title indicates Instructor/s Don De Lillo, title indicates Instructor/s. Thomas Pynchon, title indicated by the Instructor(s) and others indicated by the Instructor(s) Poetry/Poetry: Ezra Pound, selected poems T.S. Eliot, "Waste Land" and other poems Robert Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Mending Wall," "After Apple Picking," "The Pasture," "Fire and Ice," "The Road Not Taken," "Directive" and other selected poems Wallace Stevens, "The Snow Man," "The Idea of Order in Key West," and other poems William Carlos Williams, selected poems H.D., selected poems Frank O'Hara, selected poems Studied independently by the student John Dos Passos, Manhattan Transfer Djuna Barnes, Nightwood Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons William Faulkner, Absalom, Absalom.... John Hawkes, Cannibal Vladimir Nabokov, Lolita John Barth, Lost in the Funhouse	
	Supplementary literature	Bercovitch, Sacvan (ed.). The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol. 5. Cambridge UP, 2003. Elliott Emory (ed.). The Columbia History of the American Novel. Columbia University Press, 1991. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors (eds.). A New Literary History of America. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008. Bigsby, C. W. E. The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture. Cambridge companions to culture. Cambridge University Press, 2006. goldfield, David, Carl Abbott, Jo Ann E. Argersinger, et al. Twentieth Century America, 2nd edition. Pearson, 2013. Halliwell, Martin and Catherine Morley. American thought and culture in the 21st century. Edinburgh, University Press, 2008. Hart, James D. The Oxford Companion to American Literature. Oxford University Press, 1984. Hutcheon, Linda. A Poetics of Postmodernism. History, Theory, Fiction. Routledge, 1988. Kopcewicz, Andrzej, Siennicka, Maria. History of the Literature of the United States in Outline. (Volume 1 and 2) Warsaw: PWN, 1982, 1983. Misztal Arkadiusz: Time and vision machines in Thomas Pynchon's novels, Transatlantic Studies in British and North American Culture, no. 29, 2019, Peter Lang Publishing Group. Misztal, Arkadiusz. Narrative, modality, and the fictional experience of time. KronoScope 22 (2), 2032: 113-29. Salska, Agnieszka (ed.), History of 20th century American literature. (Volumes 1 and 2). Kraków: Universitas, 2003. And articles from electronic databases and textbooks on the history of U.S. literature	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Modernist narrative techniques in Faulkner; black humor, historiographic metafiction. intertextuality in postmodernist novels.		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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