

Subject card

Subject name and code	Research Methods in Cultural Studies., PG_00177245						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
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		mgr Justyna Stiepanow				
	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		43.0	75
Subject objectives	The chief objective of this course is to familiarize students with the following: the subject of cultural studies; various fields and perspectives within cultural studies; contemporary theories within cultural studies; the interdisciplinary nature of cultural studies and its link to other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences (especially literary studies, linguistics, philosophy, history, sociology, politology, psychology and anthropology). The aim of the course is also to familiarise students with the difference between text form analysis and the interpretation of this texts as well as with reading the texts through the lens of selected methodologies. The Students will also have a chance to get familiar with the theory in four main methodologies used in cultural studies: Postcolonial criticism, critical race theory, feminist criticism and gender studies.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERL3_U03] Is able to communicate on issues related to American culture, as well as American and British literature, using specialist terminology from the fields of cultural and literary studies.	Can communicate about cultural studies research methodologies using appropriate specialized terminology.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_K02] Is prepared to recognise the importance of knowledge and skills in the field of American studies in solving cognitive and practical problems, and to seek the opinion of a supervisor or a supervisor at a chosen workplace in case of difficulties in solving problems independently.	Student is ready to recognize the importance of knowledge and skills in the field of cultural studies theory and methodology in solving cognitive problems.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_U02] Is able to analyse and interpret phenomena, processes and texts of American culture and literature, and formulate and solve complex and untypical problems related to them, using methods and tools appropriate for cultural and literary studies.	Can use concepts and methods from cultural studies, such as postcolonial criticism, feminist criticism, critical race theory, and gender studies, to analyze and interpret selected cultural phenomena and processes.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_W05] Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus in the field of cultural studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus in the field of cultural and religious studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America, in methodologies such as feminist criticism, postcolonial criticism, gender studies, and critical race theory.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERL3_W03] Has advanced knowledge and understanding of the basic theories and methodologies in the field of cultural studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has advanced knowledge and understanding of basic theories and methodologies in the field of cultural and religious studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America, such as feminist criticism, postcolonial criticism, gender studies, and critical race theory.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work
Subject contents	Students acquire competencies sufficient to distinguish between: - the most basic methodologies of studying culture; - the key methodological terms in cultural studies, particularly with regard to postcolonial studies, critical race theory, feminist criticism and gender studies; - literary discourse and other ways of cultural/artistic/social communication. Students are familiar with different levels of communication in a text of culture and can discriminate between literary and social/cultural communication levels. They can recognize and describe the methodologies and domains of human and social sciences that influence and fall within the scope of cultural studies such as history, philosophy, sociology, psychology, anthropology, etc. Examples of class topics: 1. Binary opposition in Jacques Derrida's take. 2. Binary representation in American political adverts. 3. Orientalism in American espionage TV series. 4. Feminism criticism of an excerpt from a selected novel. 5. Gender, gender performance and gender performativity in a selected American movie.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of English at B2 level		

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	presentation	51.0%	20.0%
	test	51.0%	20.0%
	written analyses of selected texts	51.0%	60.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Beauvoir, Simone de. The Second Sex. 1949. Translated by Constance Borde, Sheila Malovany-Chevallier, edited by Judith Thurman, Vintage, 2011. Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America. 2003. 3rd ed., Rowman & Littlefield, 2009. Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity. 1990. Routledge, 2011. Dziamski, Grzegorz. Kulturoznawstwo czyli wprowadzenie do kultury ponowoczesnej. Katedra, 2016. Gajda, Janusz. Antropologia kulturowa. Wprowadzenie do wiedzy o kulturze. Impuls, 2008. Irimia, Mihaela, Dragos Manea, and Andrea Paris, editors. Literature and Cultural Memory. Brill Rodopi, 2017. Jones, Camara Phyllis. "Confronting Institutionalized Racism," Phylon. vol. 50, no. 1/2, 2002, pp. 722. Pickering, M. (ed.), Research Methods for Cultural Studies. Edinburgh University Press, 2008, https://lcst3789.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/pickering_ed_research_methods_in_cultural_studies.pdf. Said, Edward. Orientalism. 1978. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2014. Wiszniowska, Marta. Introducing Cultural Studies. Wydawnictwo Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, 2012. Wiszniowska, Marta. Introducing Cultural Studies. Wydawnictwo Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, 2012.	
	Supplementary literature	Butler, Judith. Undoing Gender. Routledge, 2004. Gajda, Janusz. Antropologia kulturowa. Kultura obyczajowa początku XXI wieku. Impuls, 2010. Said, Edward. Covering Islam: How the Media and the Experts Determine How We See the Rest of the World. 1982. Knopf Doubleday, 2015. Stiepanow, Justyna. "The Personally Ugly and Socially Unacceptable: Villains by Choice, Nature, or Circumstances." The Word Hoard, vol. 5, 2016, pp. 39-59. Stiepanow, Justyna. "Two Modes of Killing: Murder as an Anomaly and the Death Penalty as a Norm." Norm and Anomaly in Language, Literature, and Culture, edited by Jarosław Wilinski and Joanna Stolarek, Peter Lang, 2016, pp. 147-158.	
	eResources addresses		

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Binary opposition in Jacques Derrida's take. 2. Binary representation in American political adverts. 3. Orientalism in American espionage TV series. 4. Feminism criticism of an excerpt from a selected novel. 5. Gender, gender performance and gender performativity in a selected American movie.
Work placement	Not applicable

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