

Subject card

Subject name and code	The History of American Cinema, PG_00145192						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject			2027/2028	
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	2		Language of instruction			English	
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits			3.0	
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form			exam	
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 Paweł Biliński				
	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	Acquainting students with the history of American cinema (from the beginning to the 1960s).						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERL3_K01] Is prepared to critically evaluate their knowledge and skills, particularly in the field of American cultural and literary studies, basic contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	Student is ready to critically evaluate her knowledge and skills, particularly in the field of American cinema history up to 1960.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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.	Student can communicate on topics related to the history of American cinema up to 1960, using specialized terminology from the fields of cultural studies, religious studies, and literary studies.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_W07] Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues, phenomena and cultural processes in North America.	Student has advanced specialized knowledge of American cinema history up to 1960	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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.	Student has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus in the field of American cinema history up to 1960.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_W01] Has advanced knowledge and understanding of selected issues constituting basic general knowledge of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Student has advanced knowledge and understanding of selected topics constituting basic general knowledge of the history of American cinema up to 1960.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	The history of American cinema - from the beginning to the end of classical era, in particular: the significance of Thomas A. Edison's work; the rise of American film industry; David W. Griffith; American slapstick cinema: M. Sennett, Ch. Chaplin, B. Keaton, H. Lloyd and others; the transition to the sound era and its impact; first documentary films (R. Flaherty); star system; classical cinema; genre films: musical, gangster film, horror, western, screwball comedy; sophisticated comedy; film noir; American film during the time of II World War; 1950s golden age of classical cinema; Auteur directors: A. Hitchcock, O. Welles, H. Hawks, B. Wilder, J. Ford and other; "Actors Studio		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	English language skills at the B2 level		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Exam	51.0%	100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Joel W. Finler, The Hollywood Story, London: Wallflower 2003. Douglas Gomery, The Hollywood Studio System: A History, London: British Film Institute 2005. David Bordwell, Janet Steiger, Kristin Thompson, The Classical Hollywood Cinema. Film Style and Mode of Production to 1960, London: Routledge 1985. Mistrzowie kina amerykańskiego. Klasycy, pod red. Ł. Plesnara i R. Syski, Kraków: Rabid 2006. Historia kina. Tom I. Kino nieme, red. naukowa T. Lubelski, I. Sowińska, R. Syska, Kraków : Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas" 2009. Historia kina. Tom II. Kino klasyczne, red. naukowa T. Lubelski, I. Sowińska, R. Syska, Kraków : Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas" 2011.	
	Supplementary literature	Other materials on the history of American cinema (articles from academic journals), films	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Influence and importance of Citizen Kane; Characteristics of screwball comedies - using a selected example; The origins of cinema in the United States; Characteristics of the studio system during the classic era of American cinema		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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