

Subject card

Subject name and code	Recent Trends in American Literature, PG_00144770						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2027/2028		
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	4		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. Marta Koval				
	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	To give students an overview of the history of American literature after 1985. To familiarize students with recent trends in US literature and the transformation of literary conventions in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_W05] Knows and understands in depth advanced terminology in the field of literary studies applicable to the study of American literature.	A student possesses a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of advanced literary terminology used in the study of contemporary American literature.	[SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K05] Is prepared to inspire and organise activities aimed at promoting knowledge of American literature and culture.	A student is prepared to inspire and organize activities focused on promoting knowledge of America literature	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_K04] Is prepared to follow contemporary literary trends in North America.	A student is prepared to follow contemporary literary trends in North America.	[SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K01] Is prepared to critically assess the scope of their knowledge and skills, especially in the field of American literary and cultural studies, contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	A student is ready to critically assess their knowledge and skills in the field of American literary studies.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[AMERMU2_U05] Can communicate with diverse audiences on specialised topics related to literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America, also using advanced terminology in the fields of literary and cultural studies	A student can communicate with diverse audiences on specialized topics related to literary phenomena and processes in North America.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_U03] Is able to properly select sources and evaluate, select, critically analyse, synthesise, creatively interpret and present the collected information, using advanced information and communication techniques, in particular in the field of American literary and cultural studies.	A student can critically analyse and interpret sources and present research findings in the field of American literary studies.	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_U01] Is able to use methods and tools appropriate for literary studies and cultural and religious studies in order to innovatively perform analytical and interpretative tasks related to texts, phenomena and processes in the field of American literature and culture.	A student can use methods and tools specific to literary studies to analyze and interpret works of contemporary American literature in an innovative way.	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_W14] Knows and understands the fundamental dilemmas of contemporary civilisation in the context of issues related to the development of North American literature, culture and society.	The student is familiar with and understands the key issues of modern civilization within the context of contemporary North American literature.A	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_W07] Has in-depth understanding of selected issues constituting advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues in the field of American literature.	A student has in-depth knowledge and understanding of thematic and formal developments in contemporary American literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_W11] Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the historical evolution and contemporary trends in American literature.	A student has a solid knowledge and understanding of trends in American literature since 1985.	[SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_U06] Is able to lead a debate, including on American literature and culture, present and evaluate different opinions and positions, and discuss them.	A student can lead a discussion on American literature.	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents	• Revival of the Realist tradition, neorealism, family sagas (Carver, Beatie, Baker, Robinson, Eugenides); • History revisited: historical novel vs novel about history (Powers, Baker, Doctorow); • Literature of 9/11 (DeLillo, Updike, Foer); • Post-apocalyptic fiction (McCarthy); • African American writing (Morrison, Naylor, Walker, Whitehead, Everett, et al.); • Native American writing (Silko, Erdrich, Alexie, Owen, et al.); • Chicano/Chicana writing (Anaya, Chavez, Castillo, Cisneros, et al.); • Asian American literature and dilemmas of identity (Tan, Mukherjee, Nguyen, et al.); • American writers of European descent and challenges of memory; exile fiction (Melnyczuk, Hemon, Radulescu, et al.); • Jewish American literature; dilemmas of identity and memory of the Holocaust (Bellow, Roth, Ozick); • Feminist literature, LGBT literature • Environmentalism in literature • Graphic novels • Popular literature		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Credit for the course "Modernism and Postmodernism in American Literature". Knowledge of the English language at the C2 level.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	active participation in classes	51.0%	20.0%
	written examination/ test on reading assignments	51.0%	40.0%
	presentation prepared in a pair or small group	51.0%	40.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Bercovitch, Sacvan, editor. <i>The Cambridge History of American Literature</i>. Vol. 5. Cambridge UP, 2003. Halliwell, Martin., and Catherine Morley. <i>American Thought and Culture in the 21st Century</i>. Edinburgh UP, 2008. Irr, Caren. <i>Toward the Geopolitical Novel. U.S. Fiction in the Twenty-First Century</i>. Columbia UP, 2013. O'Donnell, Patrick. <i>The American Novel Now</i>. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Wagner-Martin, Linda. <i>A History of American Literature</i>. Wiley Blackwell, 2013. and other texts as specified by Lecturer	

	Supplementary literature	Anthologies of American literature, e.g.: (poems, short stories, essays) Lauter, Paul, editor. <i>The Heath Anthology of American Literature</i>. Volume E. Wadsworth, 2006 Powers, Richard. <i>The Overstory</i> McCarthy, Cormac. <i>Blood Meridian</i> Hemon, Aleksandar. <i>The Book of My Lives</i> (selected essays) Esciffery, Jonathan. <i>If I Survive You</i> (selected stories) Mukherjee, Bharati. Selected stories Robinson, Marilynne. <i>Home</i> Other novels and stories selected by the teaching Bewes, Timothy. <i>Free Indirect. The Novel in a Postfictopnal Age</i>. Cambridge UP, 2022. Greil, Marcus, and Werner Sollors, editors. <i>A New Literary History of America</i>. The Belknap Press of Harvard UP, 2008. Bigsby, C. W. E. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture</i>. Cambridge UP, 2006. Koval, Marta. Indigestible America and the Crisis of Multiculturalism in Aleksandar Hemon's Fiction." <i>Eating America: Crisis, Sustenance, Sustainability</i>, edited by Marek Wilczyński & Andrzej Ceynowa, Peter Lang, 2015. pp. 155-162. Koval, Marta. <i>We Search the Past for Our Own Lost Selves. Representations of Historical Experience in Recent American Fiction</i>. Peter Lang, 2013. Koval, Marta. "The Image of Home Lost and Rediscovered." <i>Austria and America: 20th-Century Cross-Cultural Encounters</i>, edited by Joshua Parker, Ralph J. Poole, LIT Verlag, 2017, pp. 163-174. Koval, Marta. <i>Frameworks of Memory in Recent American Fiction. Narratives of East-Central European Immigrant Experience</i>. Peter Lang, 2022
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Evolution of Realist tradition: new issues and socio-political awareness Minority literature: aesthetic values versus social mission Transformation of the historical novel	

Work placement	Not applicable
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