

Subject card

Subject name and code	Early American Literature lecture, PG_00144742						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		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	1		Language of instruction			English	
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits			4.0	
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 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		68.0	100
Subject objectives	The purpose of the lectures is to: familiarize students with the early development of American literature and its socio-cultural and ideological foundations from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century. make students aware of the specificity of American culture and literature in relation to indigenous cultures and European literatures (especially, but not only, the British literature) in the above-mentioned period.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_W07] Has in-depth understanding of selected issues constituting advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues in the field of American literature.	Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected topics constituting advanced specialized knowledge of early American literature, including its key trends, genres, authors, and historical, religious, and cultural contexts (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_W05] Knows and understands in depth advanced terminology in the field of literary studies applicable to the study of American literature.	Has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of advanced terminology in the field of literary studies applicable to research on early American literature (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century), in particular concepts related to the analysis of colonial, Puritan, and early national literature.	[SW3] 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.	Is ready to critically assess the scope of her knowledge and skills in the field of early American literature, its socio-cultural and ideological contexts, her knowledge of American literary and cultural studies, and her ability to use English in the analysis and interpretation of texts.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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	Can communicate with diverse audiences on specialized topics related to literary and cultural phenomena and processes characteristic of early American literature (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century), using advanced terminology in the fields of literary studies, cultural studies, and religious studies.	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_W11] Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the historical evolution and contemporary trends in American literature.	Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the developmental trends in early American literature and its historical evolution from the writings of the indigenous cultures of North America, through colonial and Puritan literature, to the literature of the early national period (until the early 19th century).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_W01] Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of American literature.	Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected topics constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of early American literature, covering the period from pre-Columbian cultures to the early 19th century, including its socio-cultural and ideological foundations.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
Subject contents	Oral tradition and culture of Native Americans Spanish and French literature from the colonial period in North America English-language literature in the British colonies from the 16th to the 19th century elements of Puritan religious consciousness in the British colonies in the 17th century the specificity of the American Enlightenment (Franklin, Federalist Papers) literature of the early republic in the context of the United States gaining independence genre diversity in the literature of the early republic (novel subgenres, the beginnings of epic poetry, drama) American nationalism and nature mythology (periodicals, Irving, Cooper) and others		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	final exam	51.0%	60.0%
	written assignment	51.0%	30.0%
	auto-reflexive report	51.0%	10.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Anthologies / Collections • Baym, Nina (ed.). <i>The Norton Anthology of American Literature</i>. Vols. A, B, C. New York: Norton, 2007. • Joy Harjo (ed.). <i>When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry</i> (2020). • Lauter, Paul (ed.). <i>The Heath Anthology of American Literature</i>. Vols. A, B, C. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. • Levine, Robert S. <i>The Norton Anthology of American Literature</i>. 1-W. W. Norton & Company, 2016. • Glencoe Literature Course 6, Grade 11 <i>American Literature: The Reader's Choice</i>. Glencoe-McGraw-Hill, 2002. Histories / Overviews • Bercovitch, Sacvan (ed.). <i>The Cambridge History of American Literature</i>. Vols. 1-3. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. • Gray, Richard. <i>A History of American Literature</i>. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. • Kopcewicz, Andrzej, Sienicka, Marta. <i>An Outline of the History of American Literature. 17th-19th Centuries</i>. Warsaw: PWN, 1982. Philosophy / Cultural Studies • Norton-Smith, Thomas. <i>The Dance of Person and Place: One Interpretation of American Indian Philosophy</i>. SUNY Press, 2010. Primary Sources • Benjamin Franklin, <i>Autobiography</i> (excerpts indicated by the instructor). • Novels: James Fenimore Cooper, title indicated by the instructor, and others indicated by the instructor. To be studied independently by the student.
	Supplementary literature	Elliott, Emory, ed. <i>Columbia Literary History of the United States</i>. New York: Columbia UP, 2008. Howe, Daniel Walker, <i>The Unitarian Conscience</i>. Middletown: Wesleyan UP, 1988. Reynolds, David S. <i>Beneath the American Renaissance</i>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1988. Sundquist, Eric J. <i>To Wake the Nations. Race in the Making of American Literature</i>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1993.
	eResources addresses	
	Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Puritanism in early American literature; The American Enlightenment
Work placement	Not applicable	

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