

Subject card

Subject name and code	History and Social Culture of the USA - seminars, PG_00144740						
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		2.0		
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		prof. dr hab. Anna Mazurkiewicz				
	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		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of this class is to introduce the students to the new ways of examining issues that confront the US today - via the historical lenses. The social and cultural history of the USA that we study in the classroom includes issues like "migration, affirmative action, racial segregation, interracial relationships, political representation, racialized poverty and affluence, educational inequality, incarceration, terrorism, cultural appropriation, civil society, religion, marriage and divorce, and racial identity formation" - all listed by the authors of the textbook adopted for this class.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_W12] Knows and understands selected issues in American history, society, politics and art, constituting contextual knowledge necessary for research into literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Knows and understands selected historical issues necessary for researching literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[AMERMU2_U04] Is able to use contextual knowledge in the field of American literary and cultural studies, including history, society, politics and art.	Can use contextual knowledge in the field of historical sciences, particularly social history.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[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.	She is ready to critically assess the scope of her knowledge and skills, especially in the field of American social and cultural history, which she has studied in English.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[AMERMU2_W08] Has in-depth understanding of selected issues constituting advanced detailed knowledge of selected cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected issues constituting advanced specialized knowledge of selected historical, social, and cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
Subject contents	In this class, we follow the chapters of the Textbook authored by Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer. 1. Race in the XXI century; 2. The Invention of Race; 3. Politics; 4. Economics; 5. Housing; 6. Crime and Punishment; 7. Education; 8. Aesthetics; 9. Associations; 10. Intimate Life; 11. Toward Racial Democracy. Primary sources and video clips are subject to analysis and discussion in class. Students prepare their own brief presentations.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Fluency in English, C1		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	in class tasks, quizzes	51.0%	30.0%
	primary source analysis (problem based project)	51.0%	25.0%
	debates, active participation in class discussions	80.0%	45.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Matthew Desmond, Mustafa Emirbayer, Race in America (New York-London: W. W. Norton & Company Inc., 2016);	
	Supplementary literature	Students search (library and online queries) for appropriate literature to prepare analysis of primary sources	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Sample task in class: Watch the 5 min. film clip in class. Write a two-paragraph interpretation. Identify the problem represented in the video (reference: textbook) 5 points What kind of research question emerges from this film? 5 points Interpret the phenomena using relevant contexts from our class material 5 points So what? Share your opinion. Formulate your thesis 5 points		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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