

Subject card

Subject name and code	Early American Literature classes, PG_00144739						
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		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		dr Grzegorz Welizarowicz				
	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 aim of the course is to: develop students' ability to analyze and interpret early American literature from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century, with particular emphasis on its socio-cultural and ideological foundations; to make students aware of the specificity of American culture and literature in relation to the traditions of the indigenous cultures of North America and European literature, especially British literature, during the period in question.						

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.	Can analyze and interpret selected issues constituting advanced specialized knowledge of early American literature, including key trends, genres, authors, and socio-cultural and ideological contexts (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century).	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_W11] Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the historical evolution and contemporary trends in American literature.	Can analyze and interpret developmental trends and historical evolution in early American literature from pre-Columbian cultures to the early 19th century, taking into account social, cultural, and ideological contexts.	[SW3] 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.	Can apply methods and tools from literary studies and the fields of cultural and religious studies to analyze and interpret texts, phenomena, and processes characteristic of early American literature (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century).	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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.	They are able to select sources appropriately and evaluate, select, critically analyze, synthesize, and creatively interpret them in the context of early American literature (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century), using advanced information and communication technologies in American literary and cultural studies.	[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 evaluate her own knowledge and skills, particularly in the field of early American literature, its socio-cultural and ideological contexts, methods of text analysis, and the use of English in the interpretation and presentation of literary material.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] 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.	Can lead a debate on early American literature and related cultural issues, present and evaluate different opinions, and argue their own position based on texts and historical and cultural contexts.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written 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	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 appropriate literary and cultural terminology.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_W05] Knows and understands in depth advanced terminology in the field of literary studies applicable to the study of American literature.	Can apply advanced literary terminology in the analysis and interpretation of early American literature (from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century), taking into account historical, cultural, and ideological contexts.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report

Subject contents	oral traditions of North American Indians, legends, stories about the creation of the world, and other myths Spanish, French, and English literature in North America 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, Bird) and others		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	znajomość angielskiego na poziomie C1		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	test	51.0%	30.0%
	presentation	51.0%	10.0%
	paper assignment	51.0%	30.0%
	debate	51.0%	30.0%

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	Native American mythologies, Spanish reports, Puritanism; how does early American fiction draw on European generic conventions?
Work placement	Not applicable	

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